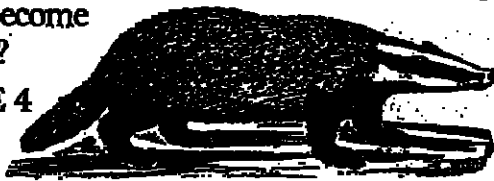


Bridge challenge

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Leading article, P17

**Protection racket**

Has the badger now become a pest?
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**Two for one flights**

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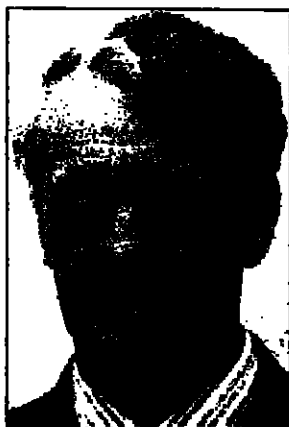
**Valerie Grove**

Jack Dromey, proud father, even prouder husband, P15

**EDUCATION**

After the Harman row, let the real debate begin.
PAGE 33

Fight over language scuppers Ian Smith memoirs



Smith: "Zimbabwe is rotten to the core"

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE long-awaited memoirs of Ian Smith, Rhodesia's last Prime Minister, have been dropped by a leading publisher because he says he insisted on describing his successor in Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, and his guerrilla army as terrorists.

Mr Smith, who is now offering the book, *The Great Betrayal*, to other major London publishing houses, was last night in an unrepentant mood about the colourful language and opinions in his controversial autobiography.

Speaking to *The Times* from his holiday home in Cape Town last night, he said: "They would rather I would talk about freedom fighters or guerrillas as opposed to terror-

ists. But they are terrorists. They are nothing else. I list the massacres. Thousands more blacks than whites were killed. What else can you call them but terrorists? They either publish my book in my words, in my writing, or they can find another author."

The autobiography, which was to have been published by HarperCollins late last year, has been edited by a professor of history at the University of Natal. But the repeated references to the "terrorist" activities of Mr Mugabe, and his Zanu (PF) party which has been in power since 1980, have proved too much for the publishers.

However, Mr Smith, whose ill-fated regime ended the world for 15 years, is confident of securing a deal

which would enable publication by the summer. "I want to have it published in London. It must be published. It is important for history and the record."

Few punches are pulled by the ruler of rebel Rhodesia whose Unilateral Declaration of Independence from Britain in 1965 took his country into a 14-year guerrilla war which cost 30,000 lives. Mr Smith's bitterness at betrayal by Britain, America and finally South Africa dominates several chapters.

There are graphic accounts of behind-the-scenes arguments with Harold Wilson, the then British Prime Minister, during the protracted negotiations following UDI which led to inconclusive summit meetings aboard the British war-

ships *Tiger* and *Fearless*. The book makes no apologies for inflicting the economic sanctions and war upon Rhodesia. Mr Smith, a former Second World War RAF fighter pilot, maintained last night that the struggle to sustain UDI had strengthened the Rhodesian economy and left the new style Zimbabwe as the "Jewel of Africa".

But the real venom in the long-awaited book is reserved for the failure of the peace deal which put a minority government in power in Zimbabwe in 1980. The section on Lord Carrington, who chaired the crucial Lancaster House talks, had to be carefully read by the liberal lawyers. "Everybody is in the line of fire. Peter Carrington is to blame. I do not favour particular

people," said Mr Smith. There is one exception in the long list of politicians Mr Smith blames for his betrayal: Baroness Thatcher, who as Prime Minister initiated the Lancaster House talks that led to elections and Zimbabwe's independence, is exonerated. "I am told by my friends in London that Peter Carrington misled Mrs Thatcher. In retrospect I had more in common with Harold Wilson than I did with the Tories. I knew where I stood with him. I never did with the Tories."

The relative warmth with which Mr Smith regards the late Lord Wilson of Rievaulx is all the more surprising since it was revealed last year that the British Prime Minister had ordered M16 to overthrow the

Rhodesian leader after attempts to persuade him to stay in the Commonwealth ended in embarrassing failure. Mr Smith dismissed the alleged coup order, saying: "That is time stuff alongside all the other shenanigans that went on."

Mr Smith uses the book to attack his home country of Zimbabwe and rails against Mr Mugabe. "The country is rotten to the core," he says.

There was some confusion at HarperCollins about the fate of the tome. A spokeswoman said: "We were going ahead. But we are not now. I am not clear why." A second telephone call drew a more vague response: "I am not sure if we were ever definitely going ahead. But we certainly are not now."

Uproar over test failures by 11-year-olds

By JOHN O'LEARY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

TEST results showing that more than half of all 11-year-olds are not up to standard in English and mathematics provoked a storm over primary school teaching yesterday.

Tony Blair, branded the results appalling, John Major described them as disappointing, and education experts immediately used them to demand a return to more traditional teaching methods.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, denied that anything was seriously wrong with junior schools, but admitted that standards in English and maths were not good enough.

Some 600,000 11-year-olds took the national curriculum tests last summer, of whom 56 per cent failed to reach the required level in maths, while 52 per cent were lagging behind in English. Science produced the only success story, with 70 per cent reaching the target level.

There was an improvement, however, in the performance of children aged seven and fourteen, with about 70 per cent of seven-year-olds reaching the expected standard across all subjects.

That success rate was immediately used in conjunction with the 11-year-olds' results to raise questions about the af-

fect of four years of junior school teaching, and John Redwood called for a "value added" scale to measure children's progress through the system.

In the Commons, the figures sparked a fierce row over education standards, with Mr Blair blaming the results on 17

'This was John Major's best PM's Questions ever. He left with order papers fluttering like flags on a Tibetan temple'

— Matthew Parris, page 2

years of Conservative rule. These children, were born under a Conservative Government, sent to school under a Conservative Government and educated under a Conservative Government. The failure is not theirs but the Conservative Government's," he said.

But the Prime Minister hit back with a powerful, almost electioneering, performance. He attacked Labour for oppos-

ing the tests in the first place and taunted Mr Blair over Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a grammar school 14 miles away. If the Conservatives had failed, why had some of his frontbench colleagues taken their children away from Labour education authorities and had them schooled under Conservative ones, he demanded.

When Mr Blair angrily rose to his feet again to claim that Mr Major was focusing on Ms Harman's 11-year-old son "to conceal the damage they have done to millions", Mr Major retaliated with a string of statistics to defend the Tory record: more GCSE passes, more A level passes and more pupils going on to university.

And he scored a direct hit on class sizes, pointing out that for children up to 16 the average secondary school class size in Islington, where Mr Blair lives, is lower than at the London Oratory — the school attended by the Labour leader's son.

The exchanges delighted Tory MPs, who cheered wildly, but they upset Labour MPs who have been calling for Ms Harman's resignation. One said that they proved that every time education was raised, people would be reminded of the affair. "The



Gillian Shephard, Education Secretary, denied yesterday that anything was seriously wrong with junior schools

longer she hangs on, the more demoralising it will be for the party," he said.

Away from the heat of Question Time, Mrs Shephard said that the 11-year-olds who took the tests last year had been held back by an overloaded curriculum, which was being slimmed down, giving teachers more time to concentrate on the basics.

But her Labour counterpart, David Blunkett, accused her

of complacency and said the results exposed a crisis in the teaching of the basics. "These results show just how far we have to go in raising standards, especially in primary schools," he said.

Secondary heads said the results confirmed the findings of its survey last year which lamented the standard of literacy among pupils arriving from primary schools, but teaching unions cast doubts

on the accuracy of the latest tests and the Liberal Democrats' Don Foster described them as crude and simplistic.

David Hart of the National Association of Headmasters said: "I don't think it would be right to criticise primary schools. They have been through an enormous revolution in recent years."

Girls shine, page 6
Weak link, page 7

Icy winds keep grip on Europe

By JOANNA BALE

HEAVY snow and freezing temperatures disrupted air, rail and road traffic across Britain and northern and eastern Europe yesterday.

Temperatures dropped to -2C in eastern Britain and to -12 in parts of Europe, bringing snow, bitterly cold winds and icy roads. The London Weather Centre said last night that the wintry conditions would continue today and into next week. A spokesman said: "Over the weekend, it will slowly become a little less cold and temperatures should be above freezing in most places, but there is no sign of an end to the freezing easterly winds, and the very cold weather will be back on Tuesday."

In northern and eastern Europe, heavy snowfalls and sub-zero conditions have blighted international air and rail travel, but brought better conditions for those skiing.

Strong winds and spring tides have broken up 75 per cent of the road that runs around the landing bay on Lundy. The National Trust, which owns the island, estimates repair costs at £250,000.

Photograph, page 10
Forecast, page 20

Major assurance

John Major has written to John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, assuring him that he was not seeking to revive a Stormont-style assembly in which Unionists always had the whiphand. Mr Bruton had given a warning against unilateral action. — Page 2

Hothouse valley

A plan has been unveiled to turn a Cornish valley into a world of rainforests, tropical gardens and desert under four giant hothouses, each of which will have its own climate. — Page 5

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'Today' given out by radio cricket

By OUR DIARY STAFF

CRICKET is to bounce BBC Radio 4's flagship news programme *Today* from the early morning airwaves next month. Live coverage of the World Cup matches in India and Pakistan will replace the programme on Long Wave.

Protest groups are aiming hostile deliveries at the decision to broadcast *Today* — essential listening for the chattering classes and decision-makers — on FM only.

Jocelyn Hay, chairman of the Voice of the Listener and Viewer, said she expected her members to mount a strong attack. "It is outrageous and the BBC wants to get its priorities right. There are a lot of people who still cannot get Radio 4 on FM particularly in cars and on older sets."

The BBC, which claims that more than 90 per cent of the country is covered by FM, has installed helpines to advise angry listeners in pockets of the country which have difficulty in receiving the frequen-

cy how to resume. The unprecedented situation has arisen because of the BBC's recent decision to put ball-by-ball cricket coverage on Radio 4 Long Wave instead of on Radio 5.

The BBC says that only two editions of *Today* are initially under threat. They coincide with England matches against Holland and South Africa on February 14 and 22. But if England proceed to the quarter-finals, further editions could be at risk.

Peter Baxter, producer of the World Cup coverage, emphasises that the World Cup takes place only every four years. "It is a hard nut to grasp but the programmes did the only thing they could."

The protest is likely to rival that of *The Archers* listeners who successfully scolded BBC plans three years ago to turn the Long Wave frequency into a 24-hour news service.

Cricket, page 40

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

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Jews told to shun reluctant divorcé

By RUSSELL JENKINS AND ADRIAN LEE

AN unemployed computer analyst has become the first man in this country to be officially ostracised by the Jewish community over his refusal to divorce his wife.

The sanction, delivered by the Federation of Synagogues Beth Din, a Jewish court, will make Moses David, 43, of Watford, a virtual *persona non grata* among Jews.

Orthodox Jews are prohibited from eating, drinking or sitting within 10ft of him although they are allowed to talk to him. Further punishments, preventing his carrying out religious duties, may follow if he continues to disobey the court.

The ruling — called a *nudui* — effectively amounts to a contempt of court and comes as senior Jewish leaders are trying to change both civil and religious law to ease the plight of the so-called "chained women", who find themselves unable to remarry in the

Jewish faith. Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, has been looking at ways to lift the 2,800-year-old religious law forbidding a woman who is unable to consider her marriage over until her husband grants her a bill of divorce, called a *get*.

The wife in the case, Rachel David, 30, hailed the judgement as a victory for the "chained women" and believes it reveals a changing attitude among Jewish elders.

She said: "This is a breakthrough for a lot of women who feel threatened and feel nobody is there to help them. I have shown the way. Husbands will have to think very seriously before behaving like this to their wives."

Mrs David, who has a 12-year-old daughter and two sons, aged ten and nine, were divorced in a civil court in 1992. However Mr David has always refused to give his wife a divorce recognisable to her. Continued on page 2, col 4

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Tip-off foiled £30,000 demand

Ex-officer jailed for seeking bribe to 'noble' jury

By Carol Midgley

A FORMER police sergeant with an exemplary career record was jailed for seven years yesterday for seeking a £30,000 bribe to help to noble an Old Bailey jury.

John Young, 45, was found guilty of attempting to pervert the course of justice after obtaining the home addresses of jurors in an attempt to influence the outcome of an armed robbery trial. He had denied the charge. Young, who was twice shot on duty and awarded the Queen's Gallantry medal while serving with the Metropolitan Police, showed no emotion as Judge Butler told him: "Conduct of this kind strikes at the very root of our criminal justice system."

Alan Rawley, QC, defending Young at Southwark Crown Court, said: "This is a ghastly and inglorious end to what had been certainly a distinguished and brave career and it is a matter of appalling record to see a man brought down like this."

Joanna Korner, QC, for the prosecution, said that Young, who had left the force two years ago to become a private detective, had spotted the potential to make money while helping to protect jurors trying a kidnapping, robbery and firearms case last year. He was part of a team of police and private security officers giving 24-hour protection during the 11-week hearing. The case cost taxpayers an estimated £1.65 million. It involved



Young made bribery offer to robber's sister

four members of a gang nicknamed "The Professionals", including Wayne Black, 27, who escaped from a prison van during the trial in June last year. He was jailed for 20 years after his recapture. His three co-defendants were jailed for between 12 and 18 years.

The trial concerned a £200,000 jewellery raid and the planned robbery of a computer shop. The gang intended to strap a home-made bomb around the body of a shop manager but were arrested as they tried to kidnap her at her home.

Ms Korner said: "Regrettably the jury protection arrangements had the very opposite effect, because it enabled a corrupt police officer to obtain names and addresses of jurors and pass them on to someone who might have

an interest in influencing the jury."

She said that Young, of New Barn, Kent, approached the sister of one of the defendants, James Lawson, and offered to supply information for payment amounting to £30,000. He told Amanda Lawson that he could secure favourable verdicts.

He told her how the jury system worked and gave her the address of one of the jurors. Miss Lawson told her sister-in-law and her brother's solicitor what had happened before telling the police.

An officer calling himself Billy pretended to be a member of the Lawson family and spoke to Young on the telephone. A meeting between the two, at which a £25,000 payment was agreed, was secretly videotaped by other police officers.

A further meeting was arranged the next day outside a pub in Woolwich, southeast London, run by Young's co-defendant, Peter Ferrigno, 52. Young introduced Ferrigno, who handed over a sealed envelope containing the addresses of four more jurors. Ferrigno was cleared after telling the court that although he believed something suspicious was going on, he did not know what was in the envelope.

Mr Rawley said that Young had been commended three times during the 1970s and was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal in 1974 after he continued to chase a gunman who had shot him in the leg.



Alfred Forte in Forte's of Berwick-upon-Tweed: a far cry from his second cousin's takeover battle with Granada

Café is northern outpost of family business that stays forever Forte

By Paul Wilkinson

THERE is one part of the Forte family empire that Granada failed to acquire in this week's £3.8 billion takeover. It is a small ice cream parlour and cafe tucked away in England's most northerly town.

Forte's of Berwick-upon-Tweed in Northumberland, is owned by Sir Rocco's second cousin Albert, who yesterday said his 56-seat emporium was definitely not for sale. "I certainly don't think Granada have any plans to take us over, and with my son Remo running the business, the name is set to go on for quite a while."

His chips-and-ice-cream-es-

tablishment is a far cry from the catering and hotel chain the other branch of his family built up over 60 years. He said: "Sometimes people think we are part of the same group, but when they see the shop they realise we aren't."

Forte's was opened in 1921 by his father Carlo, 14 years before Sir Rocco's father Charles started his empire with a milk bar in Regent Street, London. Their businesses took spectacularly different courses. While Charles and Sir Rocco went on to own grandiose hotels such as the Savoy and Le Meridien in Paris, Carlo was content to sell cornets to tourists.

his wife Heather in a flat above the cafe, still relies on the summer visitors to swell his earnings. "I have never had any aspirations to be a big businessman," he said. "I have a comfortable living and that's good enough for me. It's a small family concern and that's the way it will stay."

He watched the boardroom battle from a distance. "It was interesting and I'm sorry Sir Rocco lost. I didn't have any shares. I was too poor to buy any. Selling ice cream in Berwick at this time of year is not the easiest way of making a living."

"But all the interest in the takeover has certainly got the

family name in the paper and it's cheaper than buying advertising. Ours is such a small business compared to what Charles built up. I'd be sorry to see the Forte name go from the hotels, it helps us because people do make the connection."

The different branches of the family, which came originally from Italy, via Scotland, were once much closer. "The Fortes originally came from a village called Mortale, near Casimo. It is now called Mon Forte, which is an honour, but more of a reflection of Charles's activities than ours. I think."

Shares' ride, page 21

Jury finds Nigerian was killed unlawfully

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A NIGERIAN asylum seeker who died after a struggle with police as he was arrested was unlawfully killed, an inquest jury decided yesterday.

Evidence given at the inquest into the death of Oluwashijibomi Lapite is to be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service, which will reconsider whether charges can be brought against any police officer involved in the case.

His widow, Olanide, the mother of three children, aged one and three, is planning a civil action for damages against the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Lapite, 34, a painter and decorator, died from asphyxia and cocaine intoxication after being put in a neck hold by police arresting him outside a club in Stoke Newington, northeast London, in December 1994. The pressure crushed Mr Lapite's voice box.

The jury's verdict, after a four-day hearing, was greeted with cheers from the public gallery at St Pancras Coroner's Court, Mrs Lapite, of Homerton, east London, said: "I heard how the officers beat and killed him and I am relieved my children are going to grow up knowing their father was unlawfully killed."

Earlier Dr Stephen Chan, the coroner, urged police forces in England and Wales to ban using neck holds to restrain suspects.

PC Paul Wright had told the inquest that he and his colleague, PC Andrew McCallum, had feared for their lives as they struggled with Mr Lapite. However, the jury was told that Mr Lapite had 35 to 45 injuries on his body while the policemen were almost unscathed.

Waiter's father and imam accused over 'bride' of 13

By Bill Frost

THE father of an unemployed Turkish waiter was charged yesterday with aiding him in the statutory rape of a 13-year-old British girl.

The imam who "married" Sarah Cooke and Musa Komeagac, 18, was also charged, with performing an illegal marriage.

The girl, who became besotted with the Turkish teenager on a family holiday, may be staying in his isolated village for another month following the adjournment of the court case against him last night. A judge told Komeagac that he must remain in jail until a special hearing on February 15. Miss Cooke and her mother, from Braintree, Essex, had been due to give evidence.

On Wednesday, after an application to the High Court by Essex Social Services, Miss Cooke was made a ward of court and ordered back to Britain "forthwith". Mrs Jackie Cooke, 37, flew to Turkey that day and publicly pleaded with her to return.

Yesterday the girl appeared willing to come home after writing a letter to her "husband" begging him to forget her because she was "being forced back to Britain". Later, according to Selim Sumen, Komeagac's lawyer, she had

"no intention of leaving". The lawyer said: "She does not want to go back to England. She loves Musa very much."

"I am arranging for them to meet in the prison over the next couple of days. She is looking forward to seeing him. He is very upset because he is away from her, but he is being well treated in prison. Everyone knows the story now. He has a lot of sympathy. The adjournment will give everyone a chance to study the implications. Sarah and her mother can have time to talk about her future. Sarah must make up her own mind. All anyone wants is what is best."

The girl and her mother spent part of the day at the basement flat occupied by the Komeagac family in the town of Kahramanmaraş, close to Turkey's south eastern border with Syria. After meeting Mr Sumen they were invited to the office of Ali Sezal, the mayor. He said: "I am proud that a British girl has chosen to live in our province and adopt our Islamic way of life. I will do everything I can to help them."

He said he looked forward to performing a civil marriage ceremony with the couple, and he offered to provide them with a flat in which to start married life.

Old soldier takes leaf from tree protests

By Adrian Lee

A FORMER sapper took a leaf out of the tactics book of anti-road protesters yesterday when he sat in the branches of a neighbour's beech tree in an attempt to prevent it being felled.

The incident began shortly before tree surgeons arrived in Hales, Norfolk, to cut down most of the 140-year-old tree. Philip Thirle, 77, who served in Burma, used a ladder to reach the lower branches. His protest seemed to have ended when he climbed down for a tea break and two constables removed his ladder.

However, Mr Thirle waited until the officers had left and resumed his protest 10ft above the ground. "The tree was there long before the neighbours built their bungalow four years ago," he said. "As far as I am concerned it is healthy with many years of life left."

Norfolk police were called again and Mr Thirle gave up his perch when he was threatened with arrest for breach of the peace.

Alan Wones, 25, Mr Thirle's neighbour, said: "We got advice that the tree is dangerous and had to come down. We do not want it falling down on our bungalow or conservatory."

Student died under lorry after relationship ended

By Joanna Bale

A STUDENT suffered fatal injuries when he "dived" under the wheels of a dustcart four days after his girlfriend ended their relationship, an inquest heard yesterday.

Ian Hyde received head injuries when he was hit by the lorry outside Christ Church, Oxford, and was dragged 40 yards along the road. Eleanor Blair saw him lying crushed beneath the wheels as she was walking to a lecture. He died three hours later in hospital.

Miss Blair, 20, a mathematics undergraduate, told the inquest that Mr Hyde, 19, a chemistry student, had gone to see her on the morning of November 9, four days after the couple had split up. The relationship had begun to falter at the beginning of their second year at Hertford College. She said: "I think he realised I did not feel the same way as I used to, but he did not really want to end it."

She said that on November 5 she had told him she wanted



Eleanor Blair saw Ian Hyde dying in the street

to part and he appeared to accept that. She added: "He later began to question what had been happening. On November 9 he came to my room. I was sitting on the bed having just finished writing a letter. He asked if he could read it. I said I would rather he did not, but he insisted. He left in a fairly upset mood."

She had expected to see him later in the day when they would be able to talk about the problem, but she next saw him as he lay dying in the road. John Clarke, the driver of

the dustcart, described how he had seen Mr Hyde. He said: "I got the impression that he was staring at me. As I drew level, I smiled at him. He took his eyes off me, looked at the wheel and aimed his head at it and dived. I felt a bump and felt him underneath as I was coming to a stop."

A post mortem examination carried out at the John Radcliffe Hospital, disclosed that Mr Hyde, of Bewdley, Hereford and Worcester, whose father had died in a road accident in 1994, had suffered multiple injuries and had died from head injuries. Mr Hyde's tutor, Dr Christopher Schofield, said he had been a good student with "no significant problems".

Recording an open verdict, Nicholas Gardiner, an Oxfordshire coroner, said Mr Hyde could have tripped and fallen into the path of the lorry. "It appears to me he was in a distraught state of mind. In this case I do not feel it would be proper to record a verdict that he took his own life."

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Genetic crops 'put country at risk'

BY NICK NUTTALL

STRICT controls to protect the countryside from genetically engineered crops were urged yesterday by a government adviser. Experts fear that crops bred to have novel properties, such as a long shelf-life, may cross-breed with wild plants with highly damaging effects.

Sir Crispin Tickell, chairman of the Panel on Sustainable Development and a former Ambassador to the United Nations, said: "We are playing not just with fire but with dynamite when you get into the field of biotechnology."

Speaking yesterday at the launch of the panel's second report, he said that there were many examples of scientific developments which had produced unforeseen environmental or health damage, including asbestos and CFCs.

The panel, set up by John Major after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, said principles on the release of gene-altered organisms should be drawn up with representatives from industry, science and medicine, charities and environmental and consumer groups.

MPs prepare to extend wildlife protection

Farmers call for right to cull badgers in TB areas

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS say they are being plagued by a rise in the badger population brought about by over-zealous concern for the animal's welfare. As MPs debate new legislation today that will extend the protection given to wild animals, farmers are calling for the right to resume the culling of badgers on their property.

For centuries the creature that supplied the gentle and fatherly companion of Ratty and Mole in Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows* was among the most persecuted of Britain's wild animals. Thousands were killed to make shaving brushes.

Now Old Brock is one of the most rigorously protected of animals. After being persecuted almost to extinction by landowners and gamekeepers in the 19th century, the badger population recovered steadily after the First World War as gamekeeping declined, but the animals were still seen to be under threat from culling by farmers and by the barbarous "sport" of badger digging.

The 1973 Badgers Act, prohibiting the killing or injuring of the animals, was designed to stop the persecution but was felt to be ineffective because it did not protect badgers' setts. This was remedied in a strengthened version of the

Act in 1991. The National Farmers' Union says badger numbers are now "unnaturally" high, particularly in the South West, and blames the animals for spreading disease to cattle, destroying crops and undermining pasture land. A recent editorial in *Country Life* suggested the law should be relaxed to allow measures to be taken to reduce populations in areas where the badger has become a pest.

The main complaint of farmers is that the animals are spreading TB to cattle. About a third of the estimated 250,000 badgers in Britain live in the South West, which also has the highest incidence of TB in both cattle and badgers.

Hugh Oliver-Bellasis, a Hampshire farmer who chairs an NFU working party monitoring the badger problem, said: "We are convinced that badgers are implicated in the spread of TB, which costs farmers about £4 million a year."

Scientists, however, have little sympathy for the farmers' case. Stephen Harris, professor of environmental sciences at Bristol University and a leading authority on badgers, said: "There is as yet no evidence of a sharp rise in badger numbers. We are carrying out a new census, but



asphyxiates any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering" shall be guilty of an offence punishable by up to six months in jail.

Alan Meale, the Labour MP who is sponsoring the Bill, said: "Nobody can believe it is right that people who commit the horrendous acts regularly witnessed by RSPCA inspectors, such as hedgehogs being kicked to death, hares impaled on spikes or foxes decapitated for fun, should escape prosecution."

An earlier version of the Bill had been killed in the House of Lords by supporters of fox-hunting who raised so many objections that it ran out of parliamentary time. However, the latest Bill is being backed by the British Field Sports Society.

A list of exemptions makes clear that fox-hunting, deer hunting, hare-coursing and falconry will still be lawful and that farmers will be allowed to continue shooting and trapping foxes, rabbits and other animals recognised as pests. Robin Hanbury-Tenison, chief executive of the society, said the Bill was a victory for the countryside as it has always been prepared to support sensible animal welfare measures.



Badger and Mole in *Wind in the Willows*, written in 1908. The 19th century saw badgers persecuted almost to extinction by landowners and gamekeepers

Letters, page 17

Familiar voices offer no comfort



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DR THOMAS
STUTTAFOORD

Blue suppers offend fans of bawdy bard


BY ALAN HAMILTON

BAD language and jokes worthy only of a rugby club dinner are lowering the tone of the Immortal Memory, guardians of the heritage of

Robert Burns said yesterday. Speaking on the 237th anniversary of the poet's birth, and in the bicentenary year of his death, officials of the Burns Federation, which represents more than 1,000 clubs from Falkirk to Fiji, voiced concern that the Burns Supper, by tradition an encomium to the genius of Scotland's greatest son, was degenerating into an excuse for vulgarity and drunkenness.

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"Dirty jokes about women are becoming too much of a feature of these events. We would accept it at an all-male supper but it seems to be on the increase in front of mixed audiences. Burns Suppers exist to honour the memory of a great man; they are not the occasion for distasteful jokes which can only cheapen the



Burns: fornicated to Olympic standard

occasion," Mr Westwood said. Two weeks ago, at a Scottish literature seminar in Glasgow, Murdoch Morrison, the federation's president, appealed for Burns Suppers to be cleaned up and for speakers to concentrate on serious issues of the poet's work.

The man himself wrote some of the bawdiest poetry ever to kiss the printed page, and drank and fornicated to Olympic standard during his brief life. The keepers of his memory nevertheless feel that his appetite for women — which he called hough-magandie — should not obscure higher instincts for lyric poetry and the rights of man.

On This Day, page 19

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Familiar voices offer no comfort



MEDICAL BRIEFING

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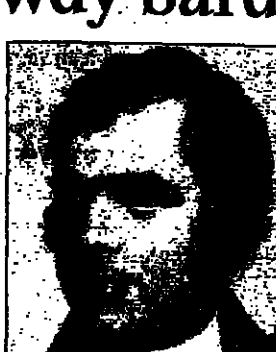
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Promoters bank on Millennium Fund for cash to create Cornish equivalent of 'The Lost World'

Hothouse plan will transform clay pit into modern Eden

BY MARCUS BINNEY

A CORNISH valley is to be turned into a world of rainforests, tropical gardens and desert in an ambitious plan involving four giant hothouses, each with its own climate. The 65m high biospheres will run along a kilometre of old clay workings at Bodelva, near St Austell.

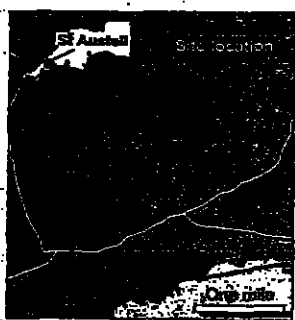
The £105 million Eden Project was unveiled last night at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London. The promoters, who will be bidding for money from the Millennium Fund, describe the project as Britain's equivalent to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World* and hope it will be a huge draw for both tourists and horticulturalists.

The clay workings at Bodelva are nearly worked out and are invisible from the surrounding countryside. They are deep enough for the planned hothouses not to rise above the rim of the crater.

The Eden Project is the brainchild of Jonathan Ball and Tim Smit, pioneers of an ambitious garden restoration at Heligan, near Mevagissey, which last year attracted 200,000 visitors and was voted garden of the year. Mr Smit said: "These will be the largest hothouses on Earth. You could fit Truro Cathedral in 14 times."

The snaking structure, looking from above like a python digesting four large meals, has been designed by the architect Nicholas Grimshaw and the engineer Anthony Hunt, who were together responsible for the award-winning Eurostar terminus at Waterloo station.

Mr Hunt said: "This is every engineer's dream. It's a colossus, with a maximum span of 120 metres. That's three times Waterloo and half again as broad as St Pancras. The maximum height will be



65 metres, high enough for rainforest trees to grow to their full 50 metres and leave 15 metres clearance.

"We will span the gorges with a series of lightweight, bow-string steel trusses, but instead of glass we will use transparent foil, creating a series of inflated pillows."

Each "biode" will contain a complete habitat rather than a simple collection of plant species. The four main climatic zones will be Mediterranean, desert, tropical and sub-tropical.

Nicholas Cole, the landscape architect, said: "The clay pit has granite outcrops, sheer cliff faces, crevices, ledges and scree, giving the impression of primordial forces at work. It is also remarkably clean and not blighted by tipping. Once visitors embark on the journey through the biodes, the whole site will never be in view and there will be a constant sense of surprise."

The topography of the site is considered ideal for multi-level planting, ensuring the whole pit can be green from the start. "We also hope to import large palms and exotic specimens outgrowing hothouses in places such as Kew," Mr Cole said.

The project differs sharply from Biosphere 2 in Arizona, a capsule sealed off from the outside air in which scientists attempt to create a sustainable environment as a prototype for establishing life in space.

The Eden Project is purely for plants and the study of the role of raw plants in medicine. "By virtue of the size of our hothouses, we can study not just individual plants but populations growing to maturity," Mr Smit said.

The project is wholly dependent on the Millennium Commission approving it as one of a dozen grand projects that will each receive up to £50 million. As one of few such projects outside London, it has a higher chance of success. The Government Office for the South West is supporting an application to the European Regional Development Fund for 25 per cent of the costs.

If the bid is successful, the promoters will open the project in 2000. Mr Hunt said: "The crystal palace itself will take about 18 months to build, not quite as fast as the original, but fast enough."



Nicholas Grimshaw, the architect, with a model of the project, which will stand 65m high, span up to 120m and cover a kilometre in length

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The Eden Project will be built in worked-out clay pits

Scientists call for ban on diseased alders

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

FORESTRY scientists are calling for a ban on the planting of alder saplings to halt the spread of a disease that is killing thousands of the trees.

The alder helps to stabilise river banks, and Forestry Commission researchers fear that if the disease spreads further banks could collapse and large areas be at greater risk of flooding. A halt to planting would allow scientists to identify foreign species that might be immune to the fungal disease.

The disease came to light in

1993 in Kent. Dying alders were discovered in several sites, with small sparse leaves and black tar-like marks on the bark. Recent surveys show the infection has spread across southern England, the Midlands, Wales, Northern Ireland and into Yorkshire. In some areas, such as around the River Lugg in Herefordshire, up to half the alders are diseased. The far north of England, and Scotland, appear to be free from infection, but there are concerns that the disease could spread.

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Teachers misjudge pupils' ability

Girls outshine boys at all three levels in maths and English

REPORTS BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GIRLS outshone boys in English and mathematics in tests at seven, 11 and 14, the first full set of results disclosed yesterday. Boys did slightly better in science but they showed worryingly low levels of achievement in English and mathematics from the age of seven onwards.

A marginal improvement was recorded over 1994 by seven-year-old boys in English, but mathematics grades deteriorated by 3 per cent. Boys fared worse in reading, spelling and handwriting — three of the four English disciplines.

Results from the first compulsory testing of 11-year-olds showed that only 43 per cent reached the standard expected of them in English, compared with 70.5 per cent for seven-year-olds. For 14-year-olds the figure rose just two points to 45 per cent.

A similar analysis of mathematics results shows 77 per cent of seven-year-old boys reaching the target for their age (national curriculum level two or above), compared with 44 per cent aged 11 and 57 per cent at 14.

Girls did considerably better at English at all ages, but their marks were slightly down on 1994 in every section of the tests. In English and mathematics at seven, girls did marginally worse, with 78 per cent and 81 per cent



McAvoy: criticised external marking

respectively getting average marks or above, compared to 80 and 84 per cent last time.

The figures published yesterday also include teachers' own assessment of pupils' progress alongside test results. Teachers generally judged their pupils to be performing better than the results suggested, apart from in science. In English and maths, teachers judged that more than half of 11-year-olds matched Government expectations (56 and 54 per cent respectively). This was significantly higher than test results showed (48 and 44 per cent).

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, highlighted the

discrepancies and said external marking of the tests could explain some of the variations.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said the first 11-year-old test results were still too problematic to be published in league tables of schools, as happens for GCSEs and A levels. However, parents could create their own tables by going to local education authorities to get information about schools in their area. "I would encourage authorities to make this information as widely available as they can," she said.

Ministers had assured teachers that yesterday's results would not be used to compile tables, but there has been a concerted campaign among Conservatives to use the tests to extend the information revolution to primary schools.

Mrs Shephard said that parents would receive their children's results and those of their school. She was waiting until the tests had "bedded down" before embarking on national league tables, and she would not commit herself to publication next year. Critics have accused her of delaying to avoid a confrontation with the unions, but she insisted the explanation lay in logistical problems.

Mrs Shephard said an improvement in results for seven and 14-year-olds showed how tests raised standards. The tests for 11-year-olds were being taken for the first time, and the children had suffered the effects of a previously overloaded curriculum, which had now been revised, she said.

"If you have had a problem at one age range in applying the old curriculum, you are bound to have an impact on what is being done in our schools and on results. That has been put right," she said. Measures included a project for 20 centres to improve literacy and numeracy teaching.

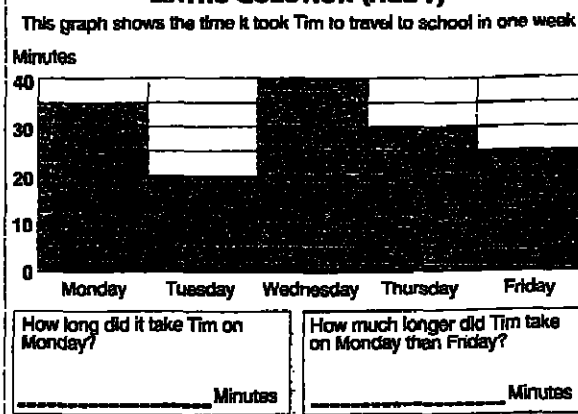
Education, page 33

TESTS AT SEVEN

English: spelling continued to be the weakest of the four tested areas, with 66 per cent matching or exceeding expectations for their age compared with 78 per cent for reading, 80 per cent for handwriting. Girls performed better in all areas, most notably in spelling, where 40 per cent of boys were already a year or more behind compared with 29 per cent of girls. Four out of ten girls were said to be reading at level three, the standard of an average nine-year-old.

Science: there were no tests in science but performance was assessed by teachers, who said 84 per cent of children reached or beat the targets set for the age group. There were only small differences between the abilities of boys and girls, with 14 per cent of female pupils reaching the average level of a nine-year-old against 15 per cent of the boys. The teachers assessed the seven-year-olds on their knowledge of materials and their properties as well as on physical processes such as heating and freezing.

MATHS QUESTION (AGE 7)



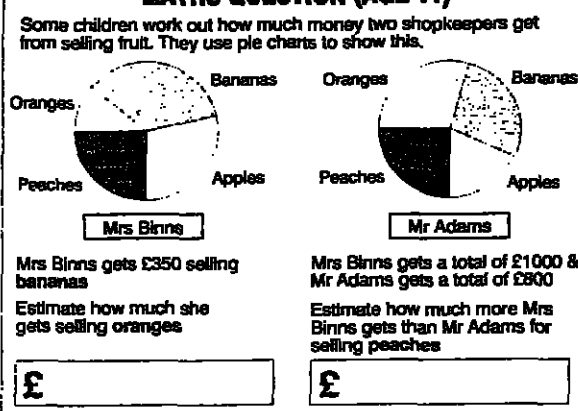
Mathematics: one in five seven-year-olds was shown by the tests to be as able as the average nine-year-old, but a similar number failed to reach the standard expected for their age. Boys formed the majority of the very bright and of the least able. Sixty-three per cent of girls and 56 per cent of boys were graded average. The tests concentrated on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Teacher assessment showed that 24 per cent of boys and 20 per cent of girls were below the target for algebra.

TESTS AT ELEVEN

English: half of the children who took English tests were below the standard expected of their age. Girls outshone the boys, with 56 per cent at or above the average compared with 42 per cent of boys. Pupils were tested on reading, writing, spelling and handwriting. Seven per cent were as good as the typical 14-year-old, but 8 per cent were four years behind the expected average. In teacher assessment, girls again excelled with 63 per cent judged at or above the average level, against 50 per cent of boys.

Science: results in science were by far the best of the three subjects, with seven out of ten children scoring average marks or above. Boys outperformed girls slightly and, overall, 22 per cent of pupils were judged to be at the standard of a 14-year-old. This year, however, the questions will be harder. The tests covered life and living processes, materials and their properties and physical processes. Teachers assessed their pupils at a lower level generally than the test results, saying 36 per cent were below average expectations.

MATHS QUESTION (AGE 11)



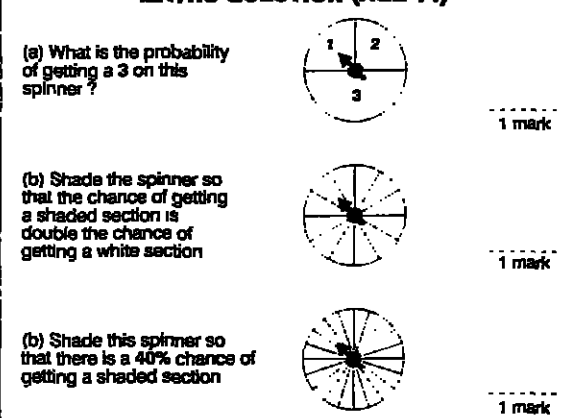
Mathematics: just 44 per cent of 11-year-olds achieved the standard expected of them in the tests, with 8 per cent four years or more behind. The tests covered numbers, algebra, shape and space and handling data. Extra time will be allowed for mathematics tests this year after complaints from teachers. In teacher assessment, 54 per cent of all children were said to be at or above the average standard of achievement for the age, with girls performing slightly better than boys.

TESTS AT FOURTEEN

English: fifty-five per cent of 14-year-olds scored at least average marks. However, 23 per cent were three years behind, 10 per cent five years behind and 4 per cent at least seven years behind the expected standard for their age group. Several hundred schools were unhappy with the grades awarded and demanded re-marking, which resulted in 4 per cent of pupils having their scores improved. Sixty-four per cent of girls were at or above the expected typical standard compared with 45 per cent of boys.

Science: boys did slightly better than girls in the science tests, with 57 per cent of boys judged at least average for their age compared with 54 per cent of girls. In all, 56 per cent were at the typical level of achievement, down from 64 per cent last year. Seven per cent were excellent in science, but 36 per cent were no better than the typical 11-year-old and 12 per cent of those were at or below a nine-year-old's performance. Pupils were tested on life and living processes, materials and their properties and physical processes.

MATHS QUESTION (AGE 14)



Mathematics: one in ten 14-year-olds surpassed expected levels of achievement. Average grades were achieved by 57 per cent, with girls' marks slightly better than those for boys. More than a third were at the level of an average 11-year-old, and 14 per cent were able to match only a typical nine-year-old. Teachers assessed pupils' work at a slightly higher level overall, saying 61 per cent of 14-year-olds were at the average level or above. In the previous year's tests, 60 per cent were judged average or above.

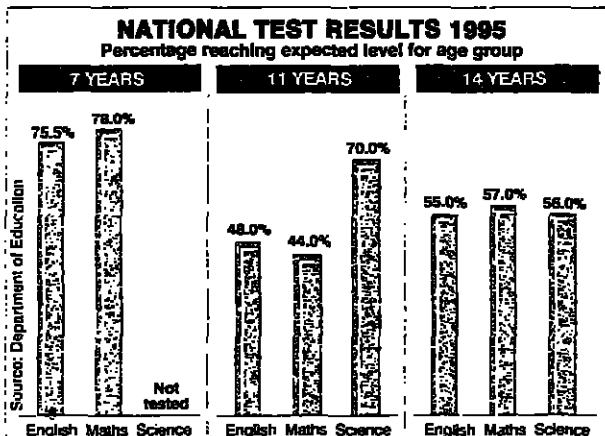
THE QUESTIONS

A BENCHMARK for future generations was set by the two million pupils who sat tests for 7, 11 and 14-year-olds last summer. In the English tests at seven, children read aloud a passage to their teacher. All children were asked to write a story using their best handwriting, and words in the spelling test included bus, hot, bath, himself, pancake, missing and fighting. In maths at seven, children were

set worksheets to test basic arithmetic, each lasting 40 minutes. At 11, pupils sat two 35-minute maths tests with all questions in the form of problems to be solved, often relating to practical experiences familiar to pupils. Some questions did not allow use of a calculator. In science at 11 there were two 35-minute tests. One question asked which of a range of materials would melt, burn or stay the same if heated.

Both maths and science had 30-minute optional extension papers for higher-ability children. English tests for 11-year-olds included a comprehension test, with multiple-choice answers and longer answers requiring pupils to express feelings of characters. In the writing test they were judged on their purpose and organisation, grammar and style and a spelling test, including words such as gingerly

and illuminated. Mathematics and science tests for 14-year-olds both consisted of two one-hour papers, with extension papers for high-ability pupils. In English, 14-year-olds sat a 90-minute comprehension based on a letter from the Red Cross appealing for money and a story about someone being evacuated from their home as a refugee. The second English paper was a 75-minute test on Shakespeare.



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Poor performance of 11-year-olds highlights need for review of teaching methods

Results expose junior schools as weak link

The first results of tests at 11 confirm many of the anxieties long expressed by inspectors about standards in junior schools. No wonder that teachers have resisted national testing and continue to argue against the compilation of league tables. Gillian Shephard was careful to emphasise yesterday that this was the first year for the tests and that children had been studying under the old, overcrowded national curriculum. But there is no hiding the poverty of the results. Less than half of 11-year-olds reached expected levels in English and mathematics. The results are bad news for the Government, not least because they turn the spotlight away from Labour's troubles and back on to the condition of state schools. Seven years after the national curriculum was introduced to raise standards, the inescapable message is that junior schools in particular still display worrying weaknesses. Ofsted, the school inspection agency, found the quality of teaching to be unsatisfac-



Gillian Shephard may take credit for persuading schools to participate in curriculum tests, but she cannot hide from the poverty of the results, John O'Leary writes

tory in 30 per cent of junior school lessons last year. One school in ten was not making satisfactory progress in reading and a quarter were in the same position for writing. The 7-11 age group has been the weak link of the national curriculum. Teachers have had difficulty mastering the full range of ten subjects and, until last year's review by Sir Ron Dearing, were expected to cover an unrealistic amount of ground. But the deficiencies exposed in yesterday's results are not in obscure areas of the curriculum: they relate to English and mathematics, the building blocks of other learning. Mrs Shephard's proposed network of remedial centres to improve the teaching of basic

literacy and numeracy look more necessary than ever. But the results at seven suggest a secure grounding that fails to ensure lift-off. Another interpretation is that teachers of younger children have become adept at teaching to the tests in a way that junior schools have yet to grasp.

However, the results of the 11-year-olds will increase pressure for a rethink of teaching methods in the later years of primary education. Even Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, conceded yesterday that some of his members might have to think again about whole-class

teaching and other traditional methods.

Another overdue development may be to introduce more specialist teaching in junior schools, where the limitations of one teacher for all subjects are now fully exposed. The so-called Three Wise Men, who reported on primary schools to Kenneth Clarke in his time as Education Secretary, recommended just such a change, but little progress has been made.

The tests, decried yesterday as crude and simplistic, have been misrepresented by critics in the teaching unions and at Westminster. They bear no resemblance to the 11-plus and are not a Trojan horse for a Government bent on reintroducing selection. Not only are the national curriculum tests taken far too late in the school year to be used to select pupils, but they set out to test different things: the 11-plus is largely an IQ test, whereas the government tests measure progress through the curriculum.

Mrs Shephard was able to glory in the fact that, at all



Deficiencies exposed by the tests were not in obscure areas of the curriculum: less than half of 11-year-olds reached the expected levels in English and mathematics

ages, nine out of ten schools had carried out the tests and reported the results. Without her successful wooing of the teaching profession, the national picture would not have emerged. She was less con-

vincing on the question of when parents will be allowed to see comparisons of individual schools' performances. Local league tables, as the first objective measures on which to base choices between

primary schools, will be read avidly. The Government might want to avoid another stand-off before an election, but the bleak national picture will surely make parents even more impatient for the results.

Vouchers may force nurseries to reduce costs

By DAVID CHARTER

LOCAL authority nursery schools might be damaged by the voucher scheme, the Audit Commission suggested in a report yesterday.

Not a single place at present provided in a free-standing nursery school, as opposed to those which are already part of primary schools, costs less than £1,100, the value of the vouchers being sent to parents in the four areas in a pilot scheme from Easter.

The commission looked at 11 of the country's 550 nursery schools. Its analysis of local authority provision showed that whereas half-day nursery classes in primary schools generally cost between £700 and £1,100, half-day nursery school places cost anything between £1,300 and £2,500.

If the findings were repeated across the country, they would suggest that costs would have to be cut at nursery schools under the voucher scheme, even if they attract parents. Local authorities now spend £1.4 billion on nursery or reception places for children aged three and four and the Government is to cut their funding by £565 million to pay for the voucher scheme.

The Government has said the scheme will encourage more local authority, private and voluntary provision of nursery places for four-year-

olds. But some areas have a way to go; there are places for just 26 per cent of four-year-olds in Hereford and Worcester, 27 per cent in Oxfordshire and 28 per cent in Essex.

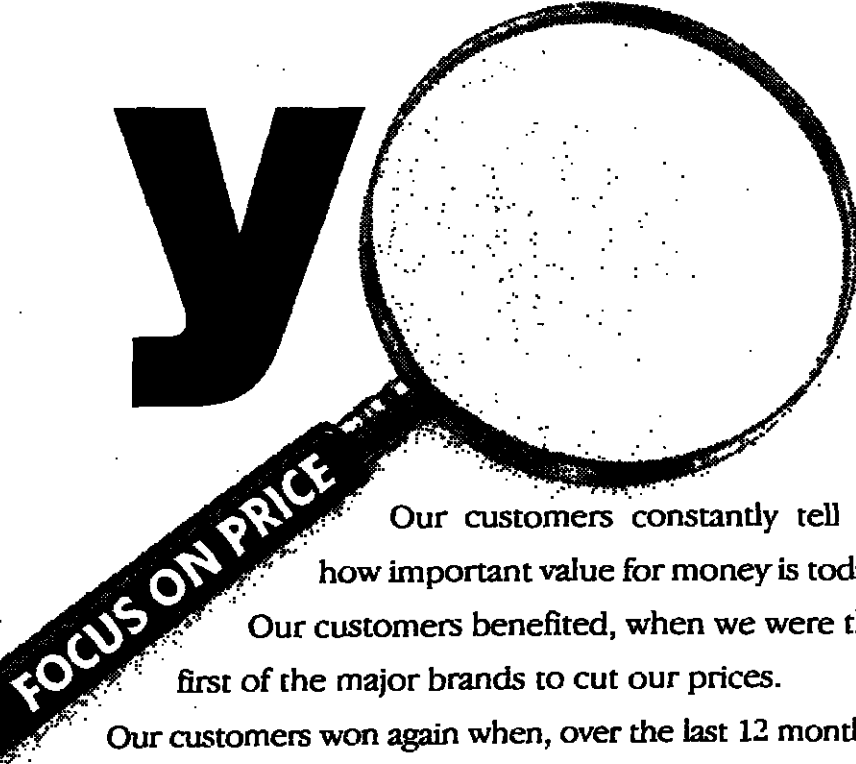
The report says it is possible that parents who do not want to take up their child's nursery voucher place will try and sell the voucher. The scheme will distribute vouchers worth £750 million to parents to use at 40,000 nursery or play-group classes. "The scheme will need powerful procedures to prevent fraud. There could be potential for a black market," *Counting to Five* says.

The commission estimates the cost of setting up a part-time nursery class as £50,000. It says: "The high costs of nursery schools, particularly relative to nursery and reception classes, mean that the case for investing in new ones will seldom be compelling."

The report also says there is "considerable unmet demand" for nursery education, with up to 46 per cent of parents not receiving the type of service they want. It does not speculate on whether vouchers will help satisfy these demands.

The report says the main challenge for local authorities, once vouchers are issued nationally in Easter next year, is to maintain co-operation with other providers.

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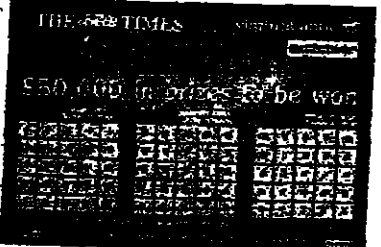
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Late claims will not be accepted for any of the prizes. Full details of how to play are on the card which you should have received with Monday's newspaper.

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The same rules of how to play and how to claim apply and the hotline numbers are the same for both newspaper and Internet games.



1 15
2 FOR 1 VIRGIN FLIGHTS - SEE PAGE 29

Blair maintains big poll lead but his party's policies are slow to win public approval

Voters show loss of faith in Labour's readiness

By PETER RIDDELL

FEWER people believe that Labour is ready to form the next government than a year ago and the party is making only slow progress in winning approval for its policies, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll confirms how central Tony Blair is to Labour's big lead in the polls and to the party's appeal to the middle classes. John Major has increased his personal popularity over the past year, but the public remains hostile to Tory policies.

Tory support is 29 per cent, up one point since early December and at the highest level for two years. Labour and the Liberal Democrats are unchanged over the month on 55 and 13 per cent respectively. The economic optimism index, measuring those who believe the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, now

stands at minus 11 points. This compares with minus 16 points last month and is the most favourable level since last June.

A quarter of those questioned think the general election should be held immediately and a further third want an election during the course of this year. Just over a quarter of the public, but three fifths of Tory supporters, think that the election should be next year.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that a clear majority believes that Labour is ready for Government and Mr Blair is ready to become the next Prime Minister, but the margins are smaller than when the question was last asked at the end of 1994. The biggest declines on both questions over the period have occurred among women, those aged over 55, skilled workers, and those living in the North.

In a week when the possibil-

ity of a Labour-Liberal Democrat partnership has been raised by Paddy Ashdown, the poll shows that a narrow majority of Liberal Democrats believe that Labour and Mr Blair are ready for government. Indeed, unlike the supporters of other parties, there has been an increase in the number of Liberal Democrats who believe that Mr Blair is ready to be Prime Minister.

In December 1994, when Labour's poll ratings touched a record 61 per cent, the proportion agreeing that Labour is ready to form the next Government was 66 per cent. It has now dropped to 55 per cent. The number disagreeing has risen from 25 to 33 per cent over the same period.

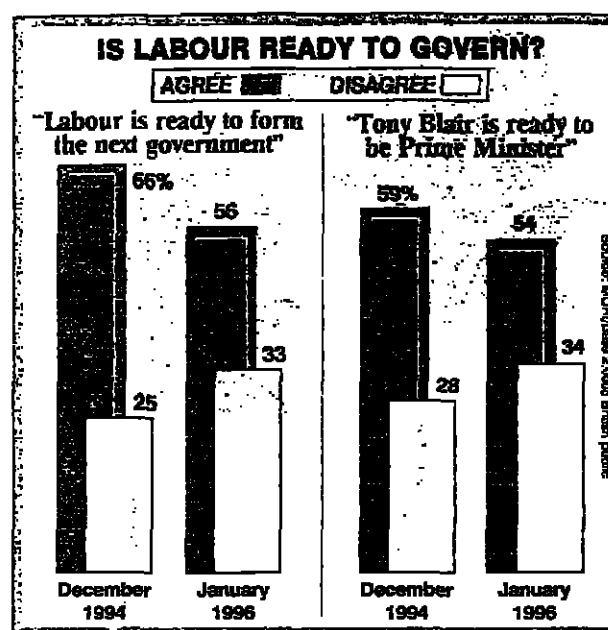
Similarly, the proportion agreeing that Mr Blair is ready to be the next Prime Minister has declined from 59 to 54 per cent over the 13 months, while the number

disagreeing has risen from 28 to 34 per cent.

The poll underlines Mr Blair's personal appeal. Since September 1994, the number liking him has risen from 49 to 53 per cent. His appeal is as strong to the middle classes as to the working classes. He is liked slightly more by those who have switched to Labour since the last election than by party supporters generally. The number disliking him has also risen, from 24 to 29 per cent as the number with no opinion has declined.

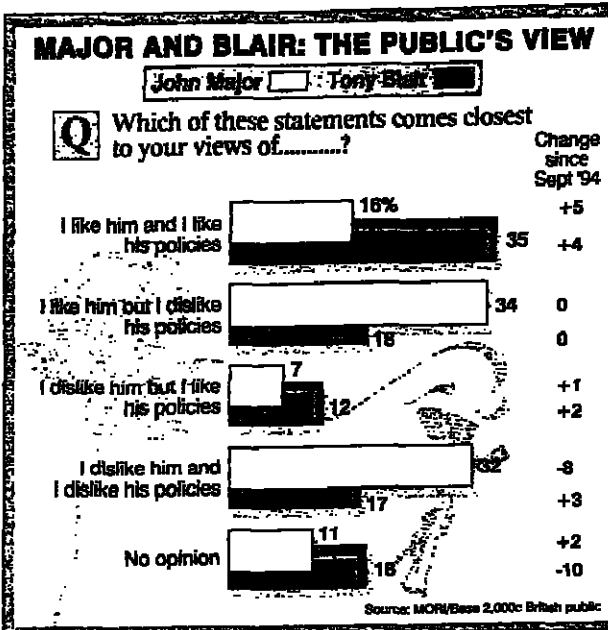
The proportion of voters who like Labour's policies has increased slightly since September 1994, by six points to 47 per cent, but there has also been a small rise in the number disliking Mr Blair's policies, from 32 to 35 per cent. Overall, a third like Mr Blair and like his policies, while just under a fifth like him but dislike his policies.

By contrast, while Mr Ma-



Major is liked personally by half the public, Tory policies are disliked by two thirds. For example, the proportion liking Mr Major and his policies is half that for Mr Blair and his policies, while the number liking Mr Major but disliking his policies is double the level for Mr Blair and his policies. However, despite being personally liked, the public is still dissatisfied with the way he is doing his job as Prime Minister by a two to one margin. This has remained fairly level since last autumn. Three quar-

ters of the public also remain dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country, with only one in seven satisfied. Mr Blair's personal rating remains positive, with nearly a half satisfied and just over a quarter dissatisfied. More than two thirds of Labour supporters are satisfied with one in eight dissatisfied. Mr Ashdown enjoys a positive rating among the public as a whole and particularly



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among Liberal Democrats. MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,770 adults at 135 ward sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face from January 19 to 22. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent), are undecided (7 per cent) or refuse to name a party (3 per cent).

Notice to Customers

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

National Savings Certificates of the 42nd Issue and 8th Index-linked Issue were withdrawn from sale on 25 January 1996.

The 43rd Issue will go on sale on 26 January. It will offer a guaranteed and tax-free return of 5.35% pa compound when held for five years.

The 9th Index-linked Issue will go on sale on 26 January. It will offer a guaranteed and tax-free return of 2.5% pa compound in addition to index-linking when held for five years.

CHILDREN'S BONUS BONDS

Issue G Children's Bonus Bonds were withdrawn from sale on 25 January 1996. Issue H will go on sale on 26 January. It will offer a guaranteed and tax-free return of 6.75% pa compound when held for the first five years.

CAPITAL BONDS

Series 1 Capital Bonds were withdrawn from sale on 25 January 1996. Series J will go on sale on 26 January. It will offer a gross return of 6.65% pa compound, guaranteed when held for five years.

PENSIONERS GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Series 2 Pensioners Bonds were withdrawn from general sale on 25 January 1996 (but see the next paragraph). Series 3 will go on sale on 26 January. It will offer a guaranteed rate of 7.0% pa gross for the first five years held.

Series 2 Bonds will remain on sale for holders of National Savings Income Bonds who wish to use the proceeds of their Income Bonds to reinvest into Pensioners Bonds provided that:

- the application to repay the Income Bonds was received at National Savings, Blackpool between 29 November 1995 and 25 January 1996 inclusive; and
- the option to reinvest into Pensioners Bonds is exercised within 1 month of the repayment date of the Income Bonds.

FIRST OPTION BONDS

On and from 26 January 1996, the first year fixed rate on FIRST Option Bonds will be 6.25% gross (5.0% net assuming tax at 20%). Bonds of £20,000 or more held to the first anniversary will earn a bonus of 0.25% gross (0.2% net).

DEPOSIT BONDS (no longer on sale). On and from 1 March 1996 the variable rate of interest will be 6.25% pa gross.

Sales booklets (including application forms) are available from post offices. Alternatively you can get copies by telephoning 0500 500 000.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

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INCOME BONDS

On and from 9 March 1996 the variable ("Treasury") rate of interest payable on Income Bonds will be 6.25% pa gross. The bonus on holdings of £25,000 or more remains at 0.25% pa gross. The gross rates from 9 March will therefore be as follows:

Holding	Rate of interest
under £25,000	6.25% pa
£25,000 and over	6.5% pa

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

On and from 9 February 1996 the variable gross rates of interest on deposits in an Investment Account will be as follows:

Balance in account	Rate of interest
under £500	5.0% pa
£500 to £24,999	5.5% pa
£25,000 and over	5.75% pa

ORDINARY ACCOUNT

On and from 1 March 1996 the variable rates of interest on deposits in an Ordinary Account will be as follows:

Standard rate	Higher rate
1.75% pa	2.75% pa

PREMIUM BONDS

On and from 1 May 1996 the variable interest rate used to calculate the prize fund will be 4.75% pa. At the same time, a new scale of prizes will be introduced. This will fix the number of prizes at 350,000 a month. The prize values will continue to range from £50 to the £1 million monthly jackpot, but there will be a new method of calculating the number of prizes of each value. The number of larger prizes, after the £1 million jackpot, will no longer be fixed at 44 a month but will grow as the prize fund grows. The new method will result in about double the current number of prizes in the range £5,000 to £100,000. There will also be more prizes of £500 and £1,000. Full details of how the prize fund will be allocated were published in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes dated 26 January 1996. They will also be included in a new booklet expected to be available at post offices from 11 March.

Tories' meagre recovery worth only half a cheer

The voting intention figures don't matter yet. What matters is whether we are getting our message across. So said a senior Shadow Cabinet member after the latest MORI poll for *The Times*. He is partly right. As revealing are the pointers to underlying attitudes shown by replies to other questions.

The slight recovery in the Tories' rating should therefore be greeted with only a half a cheer in Conservative Central Office. The improvement in the economic optimism index may be a forerunner of a revival in the elusive "feel-good" factor. But the change is small so far and there has not been any sign of any reduction in the high level of public dissatisfaction with the Government.

John Major is liked by the public, even by those who dislike his policies and are dissatisfied with his performance as Prime Minister. His rating of plus 11 points on "like less dislike" contrasts with minus 39 points on "satisfied less dissatisfied". Despite its big overall lead, there are warning signals for Labour in the decline in the number believing Labour is ready to govern and Mr Blair is ready to be Prime Minister, particularly among the key groups of skilled workers which Labour wants to attract from the Tories.

Overall, the poll confirms the view of Robert Worcester of MORI that "the outcome of the next election will depend upon how well Mr Blair performs and how well he keeps the Labour party together". Mr Blair is clearly the

party's big asset, enjoying particularly high ratings among those who have switched to Labour since 1992 and among Liberal Democrats. Not only is he liked but he enjoys strong public support for his performance as Labour leader.

Mr Blair's favourable rating is not, however, matched by equal enthusiasm for Labour policies. Since September 1994 there has only been a tiny rise in the number who "like less dislike" his policies.

None of that surprises Labour strategists whose research has revealed considerable public uncertainty about party policy. That explains the desire to project the stakeholding society as the party's "unifying theme" or Big Idea. This has gone down well, but after the Harriet Harman row this week, party leaders recognise the need to flesh out policy themes.

The Tories' conclusion is that they need to hammer home the story of an improving economy and what is being dubbed the "hypocrisy" theme, the contrast between what Labour leaders say and do. The most significant message of the polls this year will be how these campaigns affect the public's view of, for example, the parties' degree of unity, readiness to govern and leaders' performance. These will in turn determine voting intentions on polling day.

PETER RIDDELL

Soundbite factory starts production

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR continued his drive to modernise the Labour Party yesterday with the opening of a new media centre. The £2 million offices near Westminster will be the nerve centre of the general election campaign. Dubbed "the soundbite factory", it will house a workforce of spin-doctors, press officers and campaign officials.

After the last election, many Labour officials felt that the party's campaign had been too fragmented. With all the staff under one roof, the new centre will help to enable more co-ordinated and disciplined approach. Some Labour MPs, however, fear that the move will allow Mr Blair's aides to sideline the national party headquarters at Watford Road, south London.

About 130 people will work at the offices in the Millbank Tower, five minutes walk from the Commons. Labour has leased two floors of the modernist block from the Legal & General insurance company.

On the ground floor, a former cinema auditorium has been turned into a modern 130-seat press conference theatre, brimming with new technology, the offices are connected by fibre-optic cable to the nearby television offices, from where the pictures can be sent around the world. The

offices are also on the Internet. Excited officials spoke of "actually beaming Tony in and out of here — live!"

On the first floor is the campaigns centre where press officers, researchers, administrators and policy staff will work. The office will also contain a massive computer database called Excalibur.

Material ranging from speeches by Tory ministers and the Shadow Cabinet to Labour policy documents will be stored on the database to help the party's "instant rebuttal unit". Officials aim to counter immediately any false accusations or misquotations made by the Tories.

Mr Blair told party workers yesterday that the centre would help to get Labour's message across. "We have never believed that the message is a substitute for substance, but it is important that they go together," he said.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to Northern Ireland ministers and the Prime Minister; Finance Bill, committee stage; Health Service Commissioners (Amendment) Bill, remaining stages; In the Lords: Family Law Bill, committee stage; International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (Immunities and Privileges) Order.

TODAY in the Commons: Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill, second reading; Employment (Home Workers) Bill, second reading; Overseas Workers Bill, second reading; The House of Lords is not sitting.

مكتبة الأصل

Media circus homes in on Whitewater hearing

First Lady braces herself for grand jury questions

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON'S arrival at a federal court this afternoon will generate an excitement on Pennsylvania Avenue unmatched since she and her husband passed by the ornate building on their way to the White House after President Clinton's inauguration in 1993.

On that occasion, joyful Democrats thronged the pavements. Today, it will be battalions of national and international media gathered to witness the unprecedented sight of America's proud, self-righteous First Lady arriving under subpoena to testify before a grand jury that smells an obstruction of justice.

Mrs Clinton was yesterday campaigning in New Hampshire, putting a brave face on her predicament, but her appearance will be a humiliating ordeal. Her lawyers understandably spent two days trying to persuade Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, to retract the sub-

poena after the grand jury issued it last Friday.

On three previous occasions Mr Starr, in deference to Mrs Clinton's position, had gone to the White House private quarters gently to question her and the President about Whitewater matters. This time the prosecutor, outraged by the sudden "discovery" in the White House residence of key documents two years ago, was determined to demonstrate he would not be trifled with.

Mrs Clinton has the option of slipping into the court through its secure underground car park, but aides predicted she would choose to march in through its front door with her head held high.

Once inside she will take the lift to the third floor, where yet more journalists will be gathered. At that point the First Lady must leave behind her lawyers, Secret Service agents and all other trappings of office and enter the drab and

windowless jury room alone. Mrs Clinton will sit in a wooden chair before 23 jurors, randomly selected citizens of Washington who are each paid \$40 (£26.50) daily. The only other people present will be a federal marshal, a stenographer and either Mr Starr or one of his team.

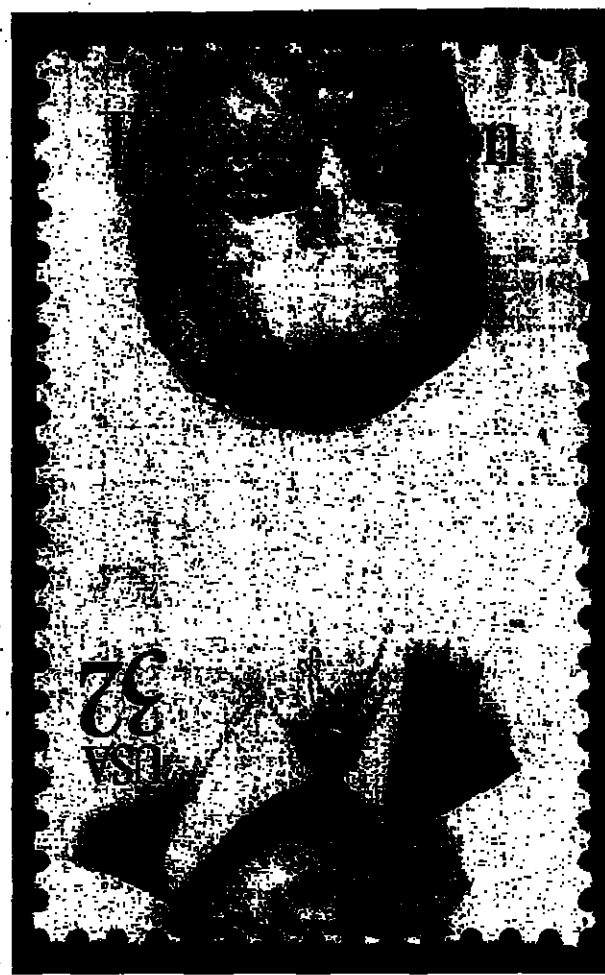
The jury foreman will swear Mrs Clinton in. The prosecutor and jury will then grill her about the mysterious disappearance and reappearance of the documents — records of her legal work in the mid-1980s for the corrupt Arkansas bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair. If Mrs Clinton needs to consult her lawyer, David Kendall, she must leave the room.

A grand jury's job is to determine whether evidence should give rise to formal charges or "indictments". Mrs Clinton is still technically a witness, not a "target" of Mr Starr's investigation, and could be out of the court in

minutes. Conversely, the hearing could last hours or even days, and Mrs Clinton risks perjury charges if she appears evasive or seeks to claim she cannot remember key events.

Her testimony must also accord with that of five other subpoenaed White House aides, including her clothing and make-up assistant, her lawyers and an usher. She has the right to invoke the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination, but that would be political suicide.

Twelve of a grand jury's 23 jurors must vote to indict. The White House will be aware that this jury is drawn from a staunchly Democratic city, but also that Mr Starr is a Republican who served in both the Reagan and Bush Administrations and can make recommendations to the jurors. It still seems unlikely that the First Lady will be indicted, but if she were America would enter uncharted political and constitutional territory.



Spectacular errors on the 32 cent stamps honouring former US President Richard Nixon have made an anonymous Virginia man happy. He bought 160 of the flawed stamps that aroused little interest elsewhere — until the discovery of the error. Now each is said to be worth \$8,000 (£5,333)

Author brings rail company to book in court

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

JOHN GRISHAM, the internationally acclaimed author, has triumphed on his first return to the courtroom since becoming a full-time writer by winning \$683,500 (£453,000) for his client.

Mr Grisham did not deny that he had found the experience frightening, but said it may have provided him with a plot for his next courthouse novel.

He worked as a lawyer in Jackson, Mississippi before realising he could make millions from his books. The author was representing the widow of a railway brakeman who was crushed to death in a train crash. She was the last client he accepted before he became a full-time writer, but her case against her late husband's employer took years to come to court. Mr Grisham, who has sold more than six million books with titles such as *The Firm* and *A Time To Kill*, had felt duty-bound to continue representing her.

The damages awarded to her were, he said in his

southern drawl, the "biggest verdict I've ever gotten". The size of the award also surprised local observers. "Our juries are normally very conservative," Sheriff Lynn Boyte said. "They just don't hand out large settlements."

The author convinced the jury in the small Mississippi town of Brookhaven that Illinois Central Railroad, which operated the track, was responsible for the death of John King four years ago.

Aspects of the tale of King, his death in a lonely siding and the apparently big, bad railroad company which failed to offer his widow proper compensation, could have come straight from the pages of a Grisham blockbuster.

He interrupted his writing schedule to take part in the court case, and after the verdict he conceded that the proceedings had provided him with some useful material. "Everything is grist," he said. His next book, strangely, has the hint of a rail theme. Its title: *Runaway Jury*.

Republicans offer to end budget deadlock

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN THE first sign of a breakthrough in Washington's political gridlock, Republican leaders said they would abandon the national debt as a weapon against President Clinton if he backed modest budget and tax cuts as a "down payment" on a balanced budget.

The move, by which congressional leaders appeared to close the door this year on plans to reduce the size of government and eliminate the deficit within seven years, was seen as a possible

defeat for hardline Republican freshmen and a direct result of Mr Clinton's State of the Union performance.

White House aides met opposite numbers on Capitol Hill yesterday to discuss a possible agreement which would, in effect, keep the federal Government from its third closure today but retain the balanced budget as the key presidential election issue.

President Clinton and his Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin, were "pleased" the deal would allow the American debt to be raised beyond its \$4.9 trillion limit, averting a possible national default.



O.J. Simpson prepares for his cable TV interview

OJ plugs his video and attacks media in live TV interview

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

IN HIS first full-length interview since being acquitted of double murder, O.J. Simpson attacked the media for their coverage of the case and asked critics to leave him alone.

Mr Simpson, who appeared for an hour on Black Entertainment, an American cable television channel, repeated his denial that he killed his former wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. "I did not commit those murders," he said. "I couldn't kill anyone and I don't know of anyone who was involved." He said his trial had been "gruelling" and "horrible", and that for the past 16 months he had taken sleeping pills nightly.

The five interview was watched by a large audience. Early reactions suggested that it had not answered many questions or repaired the damage the case had done to race relations.

The former American football star said that the public had been "lied to" by the media. "I think the media is the main reason why America is feeling the way it's feeling," he said. Continuing media presence meant that he was no longer able to pet his dog without photographers leaning over his fence and taking pictures, which would later appear under accusations that he was "arrogantly" flaunting his freedom.

The only time Mr Simpson seemed to lose his temper was when questioned about his golf-playing habits, which have been used as an example of his carefree existence. He replied indignantly that he had played golf only twice since returning to his home. When his interviewer, Ed

Gordon, asked if it might be a good idea if he moved out of Los Angeles for a while, Mr Simpson replied angrily that he had lived there longer than many other residents.

Several times he mentioned the \$29.95 (£19.60) videotape interview he has made. His contract with the manufacturer of the tape, he said, prevented him from discussing certain elements of his story, while his continuing civil legal fight with the family of Ronald Goldman meant he could not talk about the evidence.

Mr Simpson said he had compassion for Goldman's father, Fred, who has been his most constant critic, but added that another side was "very angry" with him.

Mr Simpson, who admitted he once resorted to physical violence against his former wife, felt he had been unfairly cast as a misogynist by "a certain group of women". In an infectious choice of words, he said: "I have become their whipping boy."

He said he and his wife had remained friends despite the occasional rows and she would consult him when she needed personal advice. He would "grieve for the rest of my life" for Nicole and was hiring investigators to search for her killer.

Despite his generally smooth demeanour, Mr Simpson did not appear to have succeeded in winning over critics. Andrea Peyser, a columnist in the *New York Post*, yesterday called Mr Simpson "a whiner and a bore". Many callers to radio stations and television shows criticised him for plugging his video, although others felt it was time he was left alone.

OR SIMPLY, THE CASE IN FAVOUR OF ROADS IN GENERAL. THE ORIGINAL 155 HAS BEEN BREATHTAKINGLY REVAMPED WITH WIDER FRONT AND REAR WINGS. NOTICE ITS WRAPAROUND REAR SPOILER. BODY COLOURED PAINTED SKIRTS AND 16" ALLOY WHEELS. THE 155 IS POWERED BY A 2.0 TWIN-SPARK 16V ENGINE. IT COMES WITH LEATHER STEERING WHEEL AND BODY-HUGGING SPORTS SEATS. IT'S A CAR THAT DEFINITELY MAKES DRIVING BETTER THAN ARRIVING. GO ROUND TO YOUR NEAREST DEALER FOR A TEST DRIVE OR RING 0300 718 000. WE'RE NOT AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT. WE'RE ALL FOR GETTING MORE PEOPLE OUT INTO IT.

ALFA 155. THE CASE IN FAVOUR OF MORE ROADS.

SELENIA MOTOR OIL 3-YEAR ALFA CARE

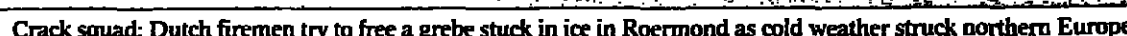
YEAR FEATURED IS A 2.0 TWIN-SPARK 16 VALVE WITH OPTIONAL SPORTS KIT.

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

The American admiral who is in charge of the 60,000-strong Nato-led Implementation Force (Ifor), underlined the agreed policy that the troops under his command would not go seeking indicted

The most sensitive issue for Admiral Smith has been the demand for U.S. troops to guard suspected mass graves containing victims of alleged Serb massacres. Although he has offered assistance to the United Nations war crimes tribunal, he underlined his reluctance to get involved in deploying troops to guard all

It was not up to U.S. troops to act as policemen. "We cannot make Bosnia a crime-free state," he said.



By David Watts

THE election of a new Portuguese Government appears to have opened the way to the solution of a problem half a world away. Indonesia believes prospects for settlement of the East Timor dispute are improving after the first meeting between Ali Alatas, the Foreign Minister, and Jaime Gama, his new Portuguese counterpart, in London.

"Gama is a person who is open and sincere in his desire to find a way out of this problem," Mr Alatas told *The Times*. The new atmosphere augurs well for more talks later in Geneva. But, with resistance continuing, the fundamentals of the 20-year-old dispute remain much the same, despite new support for Jakarta from Australia through a security treaty.

The United Nations regards the territo-

ry as remaining under Portuguese administration. Mr Alatas said: "The Portuguese decolonisation process went wrong, as it went wrong in Angola and Mozambique. It happened in the middle of a civil war that they had created... But the difference with Angola and Mozambique was that in their cases the Portuguese recognised that a self-determination process had taken place. With East Timor, that did not happen."

FROM PETER CAPELLA
IN GENEVA

Negotiators still have more than 1,200 disputed pieces of text to iron out.

By ROGER ROYES

Files against Mr Oleksy were released by the outgoing Interior Minister before Lech Walesa stepped down as President last month. Mr Walesa has called for early elections and hopes to lead a united Solidarity back to power.

New York: The US Food and Drug Administration has approved an oil substitute that could sharply reduce the calorie level of snack foods (Quentin Letts writes). But some health groups say olestra may cause diarrhoea and wash vital nutrients out of the body.

Greece said a full-scale diplomatic incident was unlikely. But Imia reawakened fears

Last year, Turkey threatened to go to war if Athens extended control around its islands from six to 12 miles. It said the Aegean Sea would be turned into "a Greek lake".

هكذا من الأمل

Egg 1

Electricity
million

Midas Let

ARTS 29-31



Joan Osborne gives old sounds a new voice



EDUCATION 33

Why I chose to send my son to St Olave's



SPORT 35-40

Football drifter in search of wider acclaim

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 38, 39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JANUARY 26 1996

Regulator is over-ruled and British Gas's rivals are jubilant

Eggar rejects £1.5bn gas levy

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS have dropped plans to take powers for a consumer levy to bail out British Gas from liabilities of £1.5 billion.

The levy, which could have added an average of £45 a year to household bills, was backed by the gas regulator.

At the same time, the Government now accepts that a delay of at least a month may be needed before a pilot project giving 500,000 households in the South West the right to choose a different gas supplier can proceed.

The April 1 target for the pilot scheme, which is intended to test procedures before all 18 million household gas users in Britain are allowed a choice of supplier, is at risk because much of the huge computer system, that was developed to process bills, remains untried.

Although Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, and industry leaders are still trying to ensure systems are ready by April 1, the Government believes it is more important to achieve a relatively

smooth transition to a competitive market in household gas supplies. That view is shared by Ms Spottiswoode.

But the decision not to take powers to impose a levy runs counter to the advice from the regulator.

Although acknowledging that it was "a fine judgment" she gave a warning that any failure to renegotiate loss-making take-or-pay gas purchase contracts could threaten

Pennington 23

the viability of British Gas. Consumer representatives and rival gas suppliers were overjoyed by the levy announcement from Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, yesterday.

Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers' Council, said the decision was most unexpected. "I am thrilled," he said. "It shows that their measurement of the political risk came up with the same

assessment as we did: It would have been an horrendous political risk."

Caroline Harper, managing director of Amerasia Hess Gas, said: "We are very pleased. We never felt it was the proper way to handle the situation."

The Department of Trade and Industry had planned to introduce a clause in licences issued to shippers, who are poised to compete with British Gas in the pilot market-opening scheme in the South-West, allowing it to impose a levy.

The power was seen as an "insurance policy" in case efforts by British Gas to renegotiate £40 billion of long-term gas purchase agreements with North Sea producers failed.

British Gas no longer needs so much fuel because of the inroads made into its market by rivals. But because the spot price of gas has slumped to half the average British Gas contract price, it cannot sell the gas on to rivals without huge losses.

But intensive lobbying, threats of a court challenge by big industrial users and publicity have made the levy power controversial. When draft licences were sent to shippers last week, Clause 12 was included, but left blank.

Announcing the decision, the Minister said: "The Government has now decided that it would not be appropriate to include a reserve power to authorise levies in relation to gas purchase contracts."

He added: "There are encouraging indications of progress in discussions between British Gas and gas producers over the terms of the long-term take-or-pay contracts."

Mr Eggar insisted the Government would consider measures to help British Gas if efforts to renegotiate the contracts fail. But introducing levy powers later would be almost impossible because it would require new legislation, and almost inevitably trigger political outcry.



Clare Spottiswoode fears for the viability of British Gas



Last resort: Tim Eggar said the Government would consider aid for British Gas

Sir Rocco's comeback aims stir Granada

By ALAN DAIR MURRAY

NEWS that Sir Rocco Forte is preparing a bid for part of his old empire sent Granada shares on a roller-coaster ride yesterday, touching an all-time high of 738p, before closing at 704p, down 3p.

Sir Rocco's interest almost guarantees that Granada will be able to hold an auction for the Meridian and Exclusive hotel chains. However, the shares were hit by profit-taking and doubts about whether Sir Rocco can raise sufficient funds to make a serious bid.

Rumours of rival bidders continued in the City on what was otherwise the first day of calm since the takeover war. New names emerging centred on major American groups, such as ITT-Sheraton, Hilton US and Hyatt. ITT and Hilton are, however, occupied with demerger plans.

Whitbread reiterated interest in the roadside assets, for which it had bid £1 billion when they were owned by Forte, but said that it was not interested in the mid-market or upmarket hotels. Granada must sell the Welcome Break motorway service stations to meet Monopolies and Mergers Commission guidelines.

Bass, the brewing and hotel company, said that its strategy centred on franchising its Holiday Inn brand name and that it was principally interested in opportunities in this context. Granada has not decided whether to keep the Forte name, strongly associated with the mid-market hotels that the company is absorbing, but it has suggested that it may dispose of the Forte plc shell for tax purposes. Sir Rocco has not decided whether to reclaim the family name for his new venture.

Granada yesterday declared its bid unconditional and said that it would launch the bid-related share issue today. The 47p special dividend will be payable to Forte shareholders on the register before close of business today.

Forte outpost, page 3

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3734.2	(-24.0)
Yield	3.83%	
FT-SE A All share	1828.87	(-8.5)
Nikkei	20414.69	(+101.95)
New York		
Dow Jones	5228.75	(-14.08)
S&P Composite	818.48	(-1.48)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	110.75	(111.15)
Yield	6.11%	(6.02%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6.75%	(6.75%)
Life long gilt	111.15	(111.15)

STERLING

New York	1.5075	(1.5110)
London		
\$	1.5039	(1.5093)
DM	2.2400	(2.2408)
FF	7.6760	(7.6775)
Sfr	1.7992	(1.8025)
Yen	160.83	(161.44)
E index	83.1	(83.1)

DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.4875	(1.4850)
FF	5.1015	(5.0885)
Sfr	1.1850	(1.1825)
Yen	106.85	(107.15)
\$ index	96.3	(96.3)

Tokyo close Yen 106.82

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$16.35	(\$16.60)
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GOLD

London close	\$407.05	(\$402.95)
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* denotes midday trading price

Easier times

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday endorsed the idea that employers should have higher real wages and own a larger slice of the country's wealth. The shift by the CBI was welcomed by both the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party. Pennington 23, page 26

Bluer skies

Boeing, the world's leading aircraft manufacturer, predicts a recovery in sales to \$22 billion during the current year after an 11 per cent fall in 1995. A strike, combined with intense competition from Airbus, caused deliveries to fall from 270 to just 206 last year. Page 23, Tempus 24

Electricity plan to spend millions on shining image

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE electricity industry is considering spending several million pounds a year in a long-running advertising campaign to spruce up its image and to counter poor publicity generated from high profits and fat-cat executive pay.

Ed Wallis, president of the Electricity Association — the trade body — and chief executive of PowerGen, the generator, is asking companies to contribute £5 million to £6 million this year to launch a high-profile marketing exercise.

In a letter to heads of the regional electricity companies and the generators, Mr Wallis gives a warning that the image of the industry has been eroded. He says: "It will cost money obviously to support such a programme but it will be small change compared with the impact of a windfall tax, which may be the result of a Labour Government."

Saatchi & Saatchi has drafted plans for a campaign in which it tells the industry: "If you do nothing, you collectively stand to lose many millions and risk also your 'licence to operate' as you would wish. You have a window of opportunity now to win back some approval and become less of a political football."

The advertising agency says that one objective should be "to have the Labour Party feel that there is less public demand for intervention in the industry."

But there is thought to be dissonance in the industry, with some companies believing that it is not a suitable time to launch an image offensive. Some feel that such a move would only backfire.

The proposals have incensed Labour, which says that the industry should not be prepared to use consumers' cash to make a pre-emptive

strike against a change of government.

John Battle, the Shadow Energy Minister, said yesterday: "The regional electricity companies alone have made over £2 billion in pre-tax profits since privatisation. The generating company PowerGen is hoping to spend £1.9 billion on buying up Midlands Electricity. And according to PowerGen's 1995 annual report Mr Wallis took home £401,000 last year."

He went on: "I want to know why, when so much profit has been made, the electricity companies are considering funding a PR campaign at the consumers' expense to seek to prevent a situation in which the public would welcome some kind of action."

The Electricity Association said that no firm plans had yet been made and it was awaiting replies from its members to the proposals.

Premium Bond wins cut

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE odds on winning a prize on the Premium Bonds have lengthened. National Savings yesterday bowed to Treasury pressure to cut the number of prize payouts after falls in interest rates. From May 1, for the first time, there will be a set total of 350,000 prizes a month.

The odds of winning any prize in the May draw will be about 17,200:1, compared with 15,000:1 now. Changes in the prize structure will mean fewer smaller £50 and £100 prizes. The move was part of an overall cut in interest rates on National Savings accounts. National Savings withdrew all its fixed rate accounts at the close yesterday and will replace them today with new issues paying lower rates. Variable rates on other accounts will be cut from today. The reduction in rates is between 0.25 per cent and 0.9 per cent.

Belling pension fraud solicitor given nine years

By JON ASHWORTH

THE disgraced former solicitor at the centre of the Belling pension fund scandal was jailed for nine years yesterday. Charles Deacon, 54, was banned from serving as a director for ten years. James Fuller, 57, his co-conspirator, was sentenced to seven years in prison, and a seven-year ban.

Deacon and Fuller ensnared some of Europe's largest firms in a web of deception. Targets ranged from Finland's biggest food processor to Belling, the UK company that raided its pension fund to qualify for a non-existent loan. In so doing, it left many former employees facing reduced pensions. It collapsed in 1992.

Passing sentence at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court, central London, Judge Fabyan Evans, QC, told the two men: "The sums of money involved in this case have been quite

staggering and have been matched only by the enormity of the lies which you both told." About £10 million has never been recovered.

The judge told Deacon he had made a habit of investing imaginary sources of money, adding: "This case has been riddled with forgeries and deceit. There is no doubt your lies were so enormous many were taken in. You didn't know the money from Belling would come from the pension funds. But this case demonstrates that managements can be totally misled into taking decisions which in the end lead to the demise of companies and consequently the loss of jobs for employees."

The judge said overseas victims were impressed by Deacon's professional standing as a solicitor for 20 years. It was not possible to estimate the damage people like him had done in the legal profession's reputation. "You told lies at every turn and money passed through your account like sand through a colander. You gambled and lost," he said.

Deacon, of Bramfield Drive, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, had been convicted of six counts of conspiracy to defraud and two of obtaining property by deception. Fuller, of Liverpool Road East, Kidsgrove, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, was convicted of six conspiracy counts and one deception charge. They were assisted by John Savage, an American. Named as a co-conspirator in many charges, he succumbed to stomach cancer before he could be extradited to the UK to stand trial.

Midas Leech turns £50,000 into £55m

By GEORGE SIVELL

KEVIN LEECH, who put £50,000 into M.L. Laboratories in 1987, yesterday cashed in £55 million of shares via a Jersey company of which he owns 68 per cent. His remaining 54 per cent personal stake is worth a staggering £353 million in spite of the company not having made a profit.

Shares in M.L. Laboratories leapt 46p to a record high of 457p yesterday after the placing of a 10 per cent stake in M.L. by Milner Laboratories, the Jersey company. M.L. also managed to raise £25 million yesterday from institutions by way of a placing of new shares at

400p each. M.L. was first listed on the old Stock Exchange third market in 1987 at an equivalent to yesterday's share price of 10p.

Mr Leech, M.L.'s chairman, abandoned his chartered accountancy exams at 21 to take over the family funeral business, which ran 20 parlours in the Manchester area. By the time he was 40 he had built it into one of the largest private funeral businesses in the country before selling up and becoming a tax exile in Jersey.

M.L. Laboratories, which researches and develops pharmaceuticals, revealed yesterday that it suffered a £3.4

million loss for the year to September 30, compared with a £2.3 million loss in 1994. Losses are normal for companies using up cash to develop new pharmaceuticals. M.L. ended 1995 with net cash of £1.9 million, but it needed to raise the £25 million from the institutions yesterday to meet its commitments.

M.L. is developing an improved treatment for kidney failure called Iodial, and is involved in clinical trials of a new method of taking drugs for respiratory disease, of Ioxetirin, an anti-cancer drug, and of an AIDS drug known so far as D2S.



Leech: £55 million share sale

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Burton Group's sales up

By Sarah Bagnall

BURTON GROUP, the Debenhams clothing retailer, provided further evidence yesterday that it was firmly back on the road to recovery.

Sir John Hoskyns, chairman, told the annual meeting that sales rose 5.9 per cent in the 20 weeks to January 20, helped by an 8.5 per cent advance by the multiples. Analysts raised their profit forecasts from about £120 million to £130 million.

Sir John said: "In spite of the encouraging performance for the first 20 weeks of the year, the lack of overall growth in the retail clothing market which has been widely reported forces us to remain somewhat cautious on the trading outlook for the full year."

As the group had predicted, the growth in the gross margin was expected to slow, so yesterday's news that the rate had eased from 2.2 to 1.9 per cent was no surprise.

□ Kenwood Appliances said that third-quarter sales rose 16 per cent, with UK sales ahead 24 per cent. The UK performance contrasts with the 7 per cent decline recorded in the six months to September 30.

Tempus, page 24

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia S.....	2.16	2.20
Austria S.....	16.76	15.36
Belgium F.....	49.08	44.78
Canada S.....	2.150	2.050
Cyprus Cyp.....	0.751	0.896
Denmark Kr.....	9.28	8.48
Finland Mk.....	7.44	8.78
France Fr.....	8.09	7.44
Germany Dm.....	360.00	365.00
Greece Dr.....	12.37	11.37
Hong Kong S.....	1.02	0.94
Ireland P.....	5.1400	4.4900
Italy Lira.....	2519.00	2364.00
Japan Yen.....	178.20	160.20
Malta.....	0.589	0.534
Netherlands Gld.....	2.853	2.433
New Zealand S.....	2.42	2.20
Norway Kr.....	10.40	9.60
Portugal Esc.....	243.50	225.00
S Africa Rd.....	16	5.59
Spain Pta.....	196.00	183.00
Sweden Kr.....	10.99	10.19
Switzerland Fr.....	1.53	1.75
Turkey Lira.....	99186	1.464
USA \$.....	1.614	1.464

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Goodhead printing and publishing, chaired by John Madejski, right, with John Cooling, managing director, has restored the interim dividend at 0.05p, the first time it has been paid since 1990-91: pre-tax profits rose to £451,000, up from £76,000

EC urges common market for defence equipment

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

THE European Commission has unveiled a package of proposals designed to create a common market in defence equipment and redress the European Union's \$4 billion-a-year arms deficit with the United States.

In a report yesterday, Martin Bangemann, the Industry Commissioner, claimed the 15 member states could save \$13.6 billion a year by opening their national procurement markets to other member states.

Because of its sensitivity, defence purchases have hith-

erto been exempt from EU rules obliging public tenders to be opened to competition from companies throughout the Union.

But the proposal is likely to face mixed reactions from member states, which recognise the opportunities from collaboration, but find it politically difficult to shed jobs in order to buy cheaper arms from their neighbours.

It will also provoke alarm in the United States, the leading overseas source of high-tech weaponry for most EU mem-

bers. The Commission suggests arms companies from outside the EU should be denied the right to take action against states that fail to hold open procurement decisions. And it proposes tariffs against arms imported from beyond the Union.

That is a direct threat to the huge United States arms industry, which is a leading supplier of transport and fighter planes, helicopters and missiles to many member states. According to commission research, the US is the

overseas supplier of choice for almost all the member states.

The Commission said that between 1988 and 1992, the US exported \$18 billion of major conventional weapons to Europe, but bought only \$1.7 billion of arms manufactured within the EU. "It's a total imbalance," said Mr Bangemann.

The report also called for negotiations with third countries to insist they must provide "comparable and effective" access to their markets, in exchange for equal rights with European suppliers.

The Commission calculates that 12 EU states, excluding the three most recent members, Sweden, Austria and Finland, shed 600,000 of their 1.6 million defence jobs during the four-year period.

As a result, arms companies in many EU states are now too small to be economic serving national markets alone, and face intensifying competition from rivals in the United States.

Barclays quits share registration

BARCLAYS BANK is to close its share registration business by March after deciding that it is not commercially viable (Patricia Tehan writes).

Barclays said it hoped that most of the 450 people employed at Beckenham, Kent, and Altrincham, Cheshire, would keep their jobs

because the bank is in discussion with Independent Registrars Group and Lloyds Bank Registrars to provide registration for its customers.

A spokeswoman said the business had been deemed to be a non-core activity for Barclays.

The move follows Nat-

West's sale of its share registration business to Royal Bank of Scotland, in 1994, and is part of an increasing trend as share registrars face requirements for significant investments in technology in order to compete.

Pennington, page 23

Governor defends supervision by Bank

By Janet Bush and Patricia Tehan

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday defended his institution's role in banking supervision and said that the advantages of the present system should be weighed against calls for alternatives.

Speaking at the London School of Economics, he said that arguments in favour of a single financial services regulator "seem to me seriously to underestimate the complexity of the issue". He said that the Bank's unique vantage point of supervising each individual bank helped it to monitor threats to the system as a whole, even when preventative supervision had failed.

Meanwhile, Brian Quinn, the Bank director in charge of supervision who retires next month, called for international standards for payments and settlements systems that would provide a "safety net" in the event of failure.

In a speech in New York, he said that the Bank had begun to negotiate memoranda of understanding with regulatory bodies in the UK so that they can be aware of all the risks to which a bank may be subject and to try to have early warning of problems. But such a safety net was not uniformly available in other countries and he said that the collapse of Barings, Britain's oldest merchant bank, pointed up the need for co-operation between regulatory authorities in different countries.

After the collapse of Barings last February, the Bank was criticised by the Board of Banking Supervision. In its inquiry into the collapse, it said that the Bank's performance could have been better and one of 17 recommendations it made was increased international co-operation.

Meanwhile, the Bank yesterday published a paper setting out plans for a facility for stripping gilts into their coupon and principal payments, a reform designed to offer investors and traders greater flexibility and so cut the cost of government borrowing. The Bank said that its consultative document last May had turned up broad demand for this new facility. It is asking for further responses by March 1.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Ulster Bank head makes peace call

THE head of one of Ireland's biggest banking groups has called for "a third track" in the Northern Ireland peace process. Sir George Quigley, chairman of Ulster Bank Group, said he believed that such a track, covering development of economic opportunities for the island of Ireland, would find "a broad measure of agreement". Sir George, chairman of the Northern Ireland Economic Council, is a director of the Ulster Bank's parent group, National Westminster Bank.

Sir George told an Ulster Bank conference in Dublin: "The peace dividend for the island as a whole largely depends on the North's response to the economic opportunities opened up by peace... The stronger the economic circuitry island-wide, the more each part is likely to share in the success of the other."

Procter progress

PROCTER & GAMBLE'S second-quarter profits rose 11 per cent, to \$336 million, from the same period a year earlier. The food and household products conglomerate said that revenues rose 7 per cent, to \$9.09 billion. Six-month fiscal year profits were up 12 per cent, to \$1.73 billion, on revenue of \$18.1 billion, the company said. John Pepper, chairman, spoke of "excellent volume growth" in North America and "record shipments in key growing markets like China and Eastern Europe".

Jobs created at Siebe

SIEBE is creating 350 jobs worldwide because of an influx of orders worth more than £50 million. The engineering group said 80 new posts would be created in the UK, with another 20 recruited for service contracts in the Middle East. The remaining new staff will be recruited in the US and Far East. The group, based in Windsor, Berkshire, said expansion of its workforce followed record orders in control systems business.

Airtours warning

AIRTOURS has given warning that the tour holiday market remains under a cloud. Bookings had fallen 34 per cent so far in the current financial year compared with the corresponding period last year, David Crossland, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting. That reflects a later launch to the 1996 brochure, but was a modest improvement since December. The winter season was progressing satisfactorily, with UK bookings up 4 per cent.

Laker flies again

SIR Freddie Laker, pioneer of cheap transatlantic airfares, will be launching the first flight of his new service, Laker Airways, on March 27 after yesterday's granting of a licence by the US Department of Transportation. The twice-weekly flight, from Florida to Gatwick, will be the first run by Sir Freddie since Skytrain's collapse 14 years ago. The new airline is owned 49 per cent by Sir Freddie and 51 per cent by Oscar Wyatt, the Texan oil millionaire.

Weiss braced for defeat

EDWARD WEISS was ready to concede defeat in his battle to continue as chairman of Water Hall after shareholders appeared to back a resolution tabled by Raschid Abdullah, a director, calling for his removal from the board. The outcome of a vote at yesterday's extraordinary meeting will be known today. Mr Weiss is likely to be succeeded by Anthony Smith. Together with his brothers, Ahmed and Osman, Mr Abdullah controls 19 per cent of the company's shares.

PRODUCT RECALL

STELLA ARTOIS BOTTLES (25cl bottle size, sold in packs of 24 only)



BEST BEFORE DATE LABEL APPEARS IN THIS AREA

Stella Artois regret to announce that small fragments of glass have been found in a small number of 25cl bottles of Stella Artois beer. These bottles can only be bought as part of a pack of 24 from supermarkets, off licences and wholesalers in the UK. The affected bottles have all been withdrawn from public sale and production stopped.

The affected green bottles are all 25cl, in a 24 pack, with a green label and a best before date from April 1996 up to and including September 1996. These bottles should not be opened and the beer should not be consumed.

The public are advised to return any affected bottles to the point of purchase for a refund.

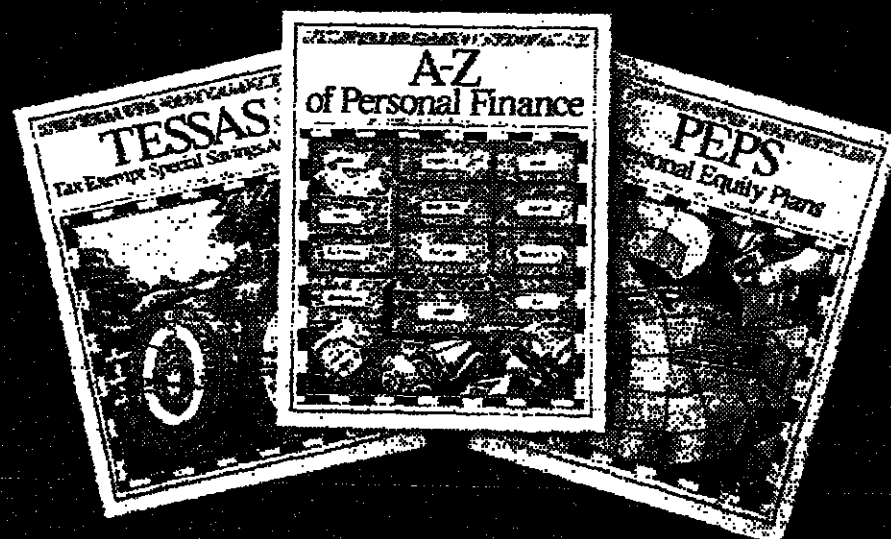
All other Stella Artois products and packaging are unaffected. The unaffected products are Stella Artois 25cl sold in a 10 pack format, 25cl brown bottle packs, 25cl bottles with white labels, Stella 33cl bottles, Stella 330ml, 440ml and 500ml cans and Stella Dry 275ml bottles.

We are sorry to inconvenience you in this way. Even though there is only a slight risk to consumers, we think it is in everyone's interest that the bottles are withdrawn from stock.

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CHANGING TIMES

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صكنا من الأصل

□ Overheard in the boardroom □ Government drops plans for gas levy □ Growing duopoly in share registrations

Mr Gradgrind's change of heart

□ THE scene is a dark satanic mill, somewhere in the industrial North. Mr Gradgrind is in heated discussion with his finance director. He gestures towards the shop floor.

Gradgrind: There are workers and their families starving out there. The wages are pitiful, and are being undermined even further by desperate part-timers who will do anything for a job. The workforce has been cut to the bone, and those left don't know if they'll be on the scrapheap themselves tomorrow.

Finance man: I take your point. The share price is looking a bit tatty. It's not that long since the remuneration committee last looked at executive share options, but I suppose we could...

Gradgrind: You don't understand, lad. We have been grinding the faces of the poor for the past 17 years.

Finance man: But that's what you told me to do.

Gradgrind: Quoted companies like ours saw their earnings rise by an average of 16 per cent annually over the past three years, as we pulled out of recession. But wages are barely keeping pace with inflation, so cowed have our people become by mass unemployment since we smashed the union.

Finance man: That was the general idea, though.

Gradgrind: There's a new day dawning, lad, and it's called the stakeholder society. We've got to spread the wealth around a little. The workers must get a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

Finance man: You want to increase wages? But we cut them only last March.

Gradgrind: It's the wave of the future, lad. Adair Turner of the Confederation of British Industry says so. Flexible approaches to pay, which link it to productivity and performance, that's what he says.

Finance man: But our productivity is about as good as it gets — you said so. None of our competitors can lay a finger on us. Push wages up, and inflation rises and businesses like ours become less economically viable. The CBI has always been quite insistent on that in the past.

Gradgrind: I told you, there's a new day coming, and we've got to prepare for it!

Finance man: Might I remind you, you don't own this mill any more, even if it's got your name on the roof. The people who do won't like it, and they have their ways of showing it — look at that

Italian sandwich bar on the High Street they sold down the river just the other day.

Gradgrind: A bit of brass spread around now, and we might find we've made some useful friends one day.

Finance man: I'd wait until then, if I were you. Still, words don't cost anything, I'll get the human resources boys to draw up a press release: "We must develop a framework giving employees opportunities, prospects and participation in the economy's success" — that kind of stuff.

Gradgrind: You can't — I sacked 'em all last week. (Pause). Well, you suggested it.

Bowing to common sense

□ HOW nice to be right. For several weeks *The Times* has been drawing attention to the shortcomings of the Government's plan to sneak a clause into licences for gas shippers enabling an open-ended levy to be imposed on consumers.

We have also repeatedly exposed the delays in preparations



to allow 500,000 households in the South West of England a choice of gas supplier.

Yesterday, at last, the Government acknowledged the strength of the case against the levy by publicly announcing that it will be dropped. It also became clear that while Ofgas is bravely battling for an April 1 start date for the competition pilot, the Government is prepared to delay if there is a serious risk that customers' bills will be wrong.

One simple test will decide whether to go ahead with the pilot, and that is whether the new computer system and customer database developed by British Gas' pipeline subsidiary, TransCo, is working smoothly in time. Given that it has the tenth

biggest data-base in the world, this now looks highly unlikely.

If there is a delay, it will have to be long enough to ensure that the revised target date is met. May, June, July, next year — why should anyone care, so long as there is no political fall-out ahead of an election.

Politics did for those accused levy powers too. These would have looked like nothing so much as a whipround for Cedric Brown. No sane politician would want to add an extra charge to consumers' bills to bail out a company better known for the size of its chief executive's pay packet than the quality of its service.

But more telling was the argument that far from acting as an insurance policy, the levy power could actually undermine efforts by British Gas to negotiate an exit from its £40 billion of take-or-pay gas contracts.

As has been said here before, British Gas's liabilities under these contracts, estimated at £15 billion, could in the end turn into a £2 billion asset, given an upturn in gas prices and some nifty negotiation. A successful

outcome to those talks with the producers looks all the more likely now the Government has bowed to common sense.

A suitable case for OFT treatment

□ SHARE registration has always been a dry, dusty, paper-laden and at times deeply inefficient backwater of banking — an unexpected death, and the resulting need to transfer share ownership can mean three months of bureaucratic delay.

This backwater is fast resurfacing as a shark pool, Barclays is backing out of a market the bank says does not pay. Barclays, Lloyds and the Royal Bank of Scotland have by shareholder numbers, some 72 per cent. The rest is in the hands of independents, including the International Registration Group.

One curious aspect of Barclays' exit, coming 18 months after the NatWest got out by selling to the Scots, is that the bank will only contemplate transferring its customer base to Lloyds or the IRG. The Scots,

although their market share is behind that of Lloyds, are being shut out, for unexplained reasons — too ambitious, perhaps?

Depending how much of the business goes to the independents, up to three-quarters could be in the hands of two banks by the summer, therefore. Meanwhile, not all the independents will be able to afford the investment needed to comply under the Crest paperless share-trading system, so concentrating that near-duopoly even further.

Fees paid by the companies are whatever the market will bear. The business, unprofitable now, could make money once the Crest investment is made. A suitable market for the Office of Fair Trading to investigate?

Place your bets

□ ONE secure income stream for those surviving registrars will be dealing with s.222 notices. These are devices aimed at detecting predators lurking on the share register, and they look like a growth industry. This week Mercury Asset Management, even as it voted on the Forti bid, was buying further into two other market bid favourites. It emerged as 10 per cent owner of Zeneca and, only yesterday, with 11 per cent of Thorn EMI. Firm long-term holdings, no doubt.

Boeing regains lead as price war takes toll

By ROSS TYMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BOEING, the world's leading aircraft manufacturer, predicts a recovery in sales to \$22 billion during the current year after an 11 per cent fall in 1995.

A ten-week strike, combined with intense competition from Airbus Industrie, the European planemakers' consortium, caused deliveries to fall from 270 to 206 last year. Frank Shrontz, Boeing's chairman, blamed the increased proportion of revenues from the defence business, where profit margins are lower, for a fall in

operating margins from 13 per cent to 11 per cent.

Net earnings for the year to December 31 were just \$393 million, down from \$856 million. Mr Shrontz said the company would have made \$783 million but for a special tax provision.

The downturn in 1995 revenues, to \$19.5 billion, had been widely expected. But while demand from airlines is recovering, Mr Shrontz said, the civil jet market would remain "extremely competitive". Boeing's production will rise,

however, to about 215 planes, he said.

In the past year, Boeing has been engaged in a vicious price war with Airbus. The battle has centred on two sectors. In the 130-seat to 150-seat market, Boeing has launched a new generation of its 737 single-aisle twin-jets to counter the impressive sales gains won by the Airbus A320 series.

In the sub-jumbo sector, Boeing's new 777 has achieved a barnstorming performance in the sales battle with the Airbus A330 twin-jet and the A340, its four-engine sister.

This titanic struggle is especially important, since each plane-maker spent more than \$1 billion developing its new range, and the planes have a list price of more than \$100 million each.

Boeing's success, however, has been aided by fierce competition among the engine suppliers, Rolls-Royce of Britain, and Pratt and Whitney and General Electric of the United States.

The A340, in contrast, suffers from having only one engine supplier, jointly owned by General Electric and Snecma of France.

Because Snecma is strapped for cash, it cannot cut prices, a factor that has also restricted GE's success in winning Boeing 777 orders for its GE90 engine, in which Snecma has a 25 per cent stake.

Together, the new 737 and the 777 accounted for two-thirds of all new orders booked by Boeing last year. Overall, the Seattle company was able to claim a 66 per cent share of the jet market, pushing well ahead of Airbus, which briefly took the lead in new orders during 1994.

Times, page 24
Makers grounded, page 25

Charge pushes AT&T into loss

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

AT&T, the US telecommunications group, fell into heavy loss during the final quarter of last year because of the massive restructuring charge for splitting the company into three separate businesses.

The company reported a \$2.7 billion loss after the unprecedented \$6.25 billion charge needed to divide the company and cut 40,000 jobs. Without it, the group would have made a profit of \$1.34 billion.

For the year as a whole, the profit after the restructuring charge was \$139 million, compared with \$4.7 billion before. Without the charge, however, profits would have soared to \$5.5 billion.

Defending the plan and its costs, Robert Allen, the chairman, said: "Short-term profitability is important, but long-term growth and

financial strength are essential." The aim of the plan is to allow each of the new companies to focus more efficiently on its core business.

The division of the group into more focused units poses a threat to BT, AT&T's international rival. The US telephone company has already signalled a policy of expansion in the UK, with a plan to spend up to \$1 billion before the end of the decade.

Overseas expansion, however, contributed to a rise in costs during the final quarter of last year.

AT&T saw revenues rise 5 per cent to \$22.1 billion for the year, fuelled mainly by a rise in long distance and wireless services, which rose 9 per cent. Profits also rose in most areas of operations including sales of products such as cordless phones and voice processing systems.

Holliday hurt by warning

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

HOLLIDAY CHEMICALS, which specialises in dyestuffs, saw its shares slump 27 per cent after a profits warning.

The Yorkshire company said that it was being squeezed by the high cost of raw materials and pressure on pricing and sales of its own products. Its shares fell from 16p to 119p and dragged down those of Yorkshire Chemicals, which is also exposed to the dyestuffs market. Shares in Yorkshire plunged 2p to 25p.

Holliday is taking a £3.5 million charge for restructuring manoeuvres to boost profits and said that it would turn in pre-tax profit of £15.4 million for the year to the end of December as against market expectations of about £20 million.

The company is now pushing through price increases of between 3 and 5 per cent.

Times, page 24

Mattel launches hostile bid for Hasbro

US toy rivals locked in battle

By RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

SHARES in Bluebird Toys raced to a high of 36p yesterday after Mattel's \$5.2 billion hostile takeover bid for Hasbro, its US rival.

Bluebird shares ended the day at 35p, up 15p, amid speculation that it will soon lose its status as one of the UK's few remaining independent toy makers. Hasbro has a 6.7 per cent stake in Bluebird, whose chief executive, Chris Burgin, previously spent 18 years with the American company. At the same time, Mattel has a longstanding arrangement to distribute Bluebird's toys in America.

The bid by Mattel, maker of Fisher-Price toys as well as Barbie dolls, for Hasbro, owner of Waddingtons and Tonka Toys as well as Sindy, received strong support on Wall Street, with Hasbro shares soaring to \$46 from around \$30 when the offer was announced. The



Barbie, Mattel's golden girl

main obstacle to a takeover would be regulatory hurdles since the companies are the largest toy makers in the US and would have to overcome American anti-trust rules. Some analysts put their combined market share in the US at around 40 per cent. It would include favourites such as Scrabble, Monopoly, and Mr Potato Head.



Sindy, Hasbro's heart-throb

Mattel now has to convince Hasbro's shareholders to accept its offer since it has declared that it will not go ahead without an agreed deal. Hasbro's management predictably rejected the offer out of hand as "incredibly presumptuous", leaving Mattel to appeal directly to their investors, who are mostly institutions, which, analysts said,

made a deal more likely to happen.

Mattel is offering 1.67 shares in the combined company for every Hasbro share. It claims that this values Hasbro at a 73 per cent premium, or \$2.2 billion, over its market price. It has even promised to pay Hasbro \$100 million if an agreed deal is blocked by regulators.

There is little love lost between the two companies, both of which have recently been expanding aggressively overseas, including Britain. Although Mattel's sales revenues of \$3.7 billion last year are not vastly more than Hasbro's \$2.9 billion, the company is much more profitable, giving it a market value more than twice that of its competitor.

Mattel, which is widely regarded as the better managed company, is worth more than \$7 billion on the stock market while Hasbro is worth only around \$2.7 billion.



Jeff Hewitt, left, Unitech's finance director, and Peter Curry, its chairman

Unitech 45% ahead as Far East helps sales

By MARTIN BARROW

UNITECH, the manufacturer and distributor of electronic components and controls, said that continued strong demand in the Far East was likely to offset a decline in the rate of growth in other regions, particularly Europe, experienced in the second quarter.

Peter Curry, chairman and chief executive, said: "Increasing acceptance of our new products by major customers

should enable [the] board to report further progress in the second half."

Unitech yesterday reported a 45 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £22.9 million, from £15.8 million, for the half-year to November 30, after a 20 per cent rise in sales, to £207 million. The interim dividend, payable on April 1, rises to 2.96p, from 2.57p, after earnings per share of 14.6p (11p). The shares fell 11p, to 498p.

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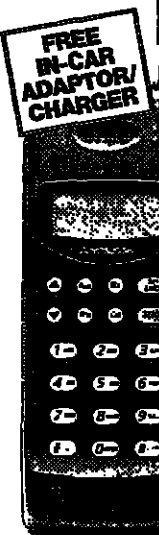
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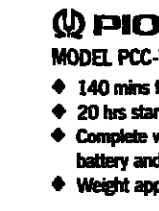
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Rumours of Soros selling and bid talk rattle shares

It was another volatile day for the London market, dominated by falling bond markets after rumours that George Soros, the international speculator, was a big seller, and by more bid talk and a couple of large share placings.

The largest of these came as Midland bank floated its remaining 5.3 per cent stake in 31 Group, the venture capital group floated in July 1994 at 272p. James Capel, which is owned by HSBC, Midland's parent, was said to have placed 30 million shares at 40p a share.

Last year, Midland reduced its 31 stake from 7.9 per cent to 5.3 per cent as part of last June's £440 million share sale by four bank shareholders. At the time, Lloyds and the Bank of England sold their entire stakes, while Barclays lowered its stake from 8.2 per cent to 5.5 per cent. Bank of Scotland and NatWest, 31's other bank shareholders, held on to their stakes of 2.5 per cent and 17.8 per cent respectively.

31 shares ended 3p lower at 413p, on heavy volume of 62.4 million shares traded. HSBC dipped to 10.96, while Lloyds TSB fell to 337p, on volume of 11.6 million shares, and NatWest 7p to 667p. Bank of Scotland added 5p to 309p.

Meanwhile, equities failed to hold on to modest early gains as declining bond markets on both sides of the Atlantic combined with a negative start to trading on Wall Street. The US markets were again unsettled by fears that Congress may not pass the necessary legislation to allow the Government to cover its budget deficit.

Sentiment was also hit by late speculation, but incorrect, talk that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was going to criticise the Chancellor's recent interest rate cut in a speech he was due to deliver at the London School of Economics last night.

The FT-SE 100 index ended near its worst of the day, closing down 24 points at 3,734.2. Second-liners fared better, with the FT-SE 250 only slipping 0.2 to 4,086.7. Volume, swollen by substantial placings in 31 and BAA, reached 857 million at the official close.

BAA, the airports operator, ended unchanged at 496p on heavy volume of 62.8 million shares traded after the Gov-



Torquil Norman, chairman, saw Bluebird shares jump 15p

ernment sold its 2.9 per cent stake. The Treasury raised about £140 million after selling about 29.5 million BAA shares to Merrill Lynch Smith New Court, the stockbroker, which in turn passed them on to institutions in a placing at 494p a share.

Shares in Granada, which this week won control of the Forté empire after its hostile

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be a potential break-up candidate, was the best performer among FT-SE stocks, with the shipping to property group steaming ahead 12p to 529p.

Toy companies were also the centre of speculative interest in the wake of the \$5.2 billion hostile offer from Mattel, the US toy group whose empire spans Barbie dolls to Fisher Price products, for Hasbro, its American rival. Among possible UK targets, Bluebird Toys, which is 6.7 per cent owned by Hasbro and is one of the UK's few remaining independent toy groups, jumped 36p before ending at 354p, up 15p.

Games Workshop added 7p to 299p and Tui Options firmed 2p to 98p.

Laurus was also a good market, adding 2p to 172p, before a Nigerian drilling report next week.

British Biotech continued its remarkable advance, surging to £23.58 before closing at £22.38, up 70p, for a two-day gain of 268p. The shares have more than trebled in the past six months as investors become increasingly optimistic about prospects for Marimastat, the company's anticancer treatment which is undergoing trials.

Elsewhere, Cantab Pharmaceuticals surged 85p to 530p, Cortec 33p to 270p, Scotia 19p to 503p and Anagen 5p to 75p. ML Laboratories, meanwhile, raced to an all-time high of 457p, up 46p at 400p after accompanying increased losses with a £25 million cash call.

Holliday Chemical dived 45p to 19p after issuing a profits warning. The warning unsettled others in the sector, with Yorkshire Chemicals down 22p to 259p, Laporte 13p to 644p, ICI 18p to 308p and Courtauld 15p to 432p.

GLT-EDGED: Glits suffered widespread falls. The March long gilt future lost 20 ticks to £111 1/4, on volume of 65,000 contracts. Among conventional stocks, five-year issues fell by about 4p, while longer-dated stocks.

NEW YORK: A sell-off in the US bond market continued to weigh on Wall Street shares and kept them trading lower at midday. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 14.09 at 5,228.75. Analysts said the market was also falling prey to some profit taking after a steep run, mostly concentrated in the Dow 30.

Standard Chartered, which has been gripped by takeover speculation, fell back after recent gains as the City took a calmer approach and accepted the rumours may yet again be unfounded. The shares retreated 24p to 636p after the bank said it was not aware of any circumstances leading to the recent movement in its share price.

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New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5228.75 (-14.09)
S&P Composite 618.46 (-1.49)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20414.99 (+101.99)
Hang Seng 11103.08 (+142.87)

Amsterdam:
BSE Index 308.01 (-0.04)
AO 228.19 (-18.3)

Sydney:
DAX 2443.72 (+20.65)
Frankfurt:
DAX 2443.72 (+20.65)

Singapore:
Straits 2433.00 (+22.75)
Brussels:
General 8863.46 (-25.12)

Paris:
CAC 40 1950.19 (+4.22)
Zurich:
SIX Gen 720.70 (-2.89)

London:
FT 30 2765.6 (-22.6)
FT 100 3742.4 (-24.2)
FT 250 4086.7 (-0.2)

FT-SE 100 3734.2 (-24.2)
FT-SE 250 4086.7 (-0.2)
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BOEING is back on top in its battle with Airbus Industrie, the European plane-makers' consortium. The American firm is gaining ground just as demand for airliners begins to recover from a four-year slide.

The negative impact of a ten-week machinists' strike coloured yesterday's figures from the Seattle manufacturer. Nevertheless, Boeing shareholders have Airbus to thank for the leaner and meaner look of the American company.

During 1994, and for the first time, Airbus booked more new orders than Boeing. The Americans responded with aggressive discounting, offering airlines planes for delivery in four years at prices 25 per cent below the current cost of production.

These deals are backed by a cost-cutting drive that Airbus cannot possibly match. The

European consortium is hamstrung by its ownership structure, which gives the partners insufficient incentive to cut costs. Although British Aerospace, a 20 per cent partner, claims to be the world's most cost-competitive aerostuctures company, Airbus is weighed down by the strength of the mark, the franc and the social costs of its French, German and Spanish partners.

Last year, Boeing booked two thirds of all new orders for commercial jets worldwide. This year it has extended its lead with sales projected to recover to \$22 billion. Backed by a \$66.5 billion order book, and despite the failure of merger talks with US rival McDonnell Douglas, Boeing's pockets are bulging with enough cash to develop new planes and make acquisitions. Unless Airbus pulls itself together, the skywar is all but lost.

HOLLIDAY Chemicals is suffering from more than a bout of seasonal depression and the market duly thrashed the share price after it said that there was little chance of any short-term improvement.

The Huddersfield company closed a laundry products factory in Hull earlier this month. The move gave some credence to the growing alarm in the chemicals industry that the much talked about destocking is going deeper than expected and industry gossip suggests manufacturers are facing a more fundamental shake-up.

Yesterday, Holliday gave a warning to the market of problems in ultramarine pigments. Holliday is the world leader in production of ultramarine dyes and salts that these high-margin goods were making up a

lower proportion of group sales. In spite of upbeat forecasts that demand for chemicals will pick up this year, Holliday fails to see any large-scale recovery in its sales or its order book.

Holliday earns a living from several niche chemical products including textile dye stuffs, hairdyes and photographic materials. Huge

surges in the price of raw materials have hurt margins, while sales have declined, increasing price pressure.

Holliday's warning rebounded on Yorkshire Chemicals, which is also exposed to dyestuffs. With out signs of renewed demand, investors are better off with minimal exposure to the chemicals cycle.

Mersey Docks

LIKE the proverbial bad penny, labour problems have continued to haunt the Liverpool docks. Mersey Docks and Harbour Company shareholders will witness the idea of paying up to £3 million to dockers who abandoned their jobs in a quixotic gesture of support towards

redundant employees of a separate, and now defunct, stevedoring company.

It may, however, turn out to be money well spent. Britain has too many ports to service a small island, and rivals of Mersey Docks were busy seducing its shipping customers while the cranes stood idle at the Royal Seaford Docks. The company claims to have retained all its important customers, but even so,

these will have seized the opportunity to seek concessions from Mersey Docks in exchange for continued loyalty to Liverpool.

However, Mersey Docks has extracted an important gain from the strike. Productivity has vastly improved at the container terminal; jobs taken over by shippers and new working practices have reduced manning levels by half, a cost-saving that should make Liverpool more competitive and able to attract more custom.

Many of the dockers sacked in the dispute were approaching retirement; their age must partly explain their bizarre attempt to force a revival of the National Dock Labour Scheme. A reversal of the growth in activity over the past five years at the Port of Liverpool would kill off attempts to revive business on Merseyside, and the hope must be that the settlement will allow old wounds to heal.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

BA flies the kilt

YOU DON'T HAVE to be blessed with handsome knees to fly with, or work for, British Airways. But it could help. BA has registered its own tartan, and aptly chose Burns Night to reveal the "colours" of red, white and blue and the name "British Airways Tartan". The tartan was formally registered at a ceremony at Glasgow's Turnberry Hotel last night, conducted by the Scottish Tartan Society and involving a solemn ritual of prayers, toasts and dedications before the tartan was sworn in.

Though British Caledonian, which BA acquired in 1987, had long sported tartan uniforms, BCal never had its "own" tartan. Ties have been made for the crew, and the BA "check" will be seen on mugs, cushions and napkins in Club World cabins on long-haul aircraft. Ironically, the tartan will not be woven north of the Border but by two Lancashire companies as cotton was the stipulated material.

Full house

GRANADA, fresh from winning the battle for Forté, is off to a cracking start at table bookings at The Savoy are any guide. John Dear, managing director of Lazard, adviser to Granada, reportedly cannot secure a table there today to thank Jonathan Clare, joint managing director of FR firm Citicorp. Will they try a Little Chef?

IT'S BEEN tough second-guessing Lord Hanson over the years, here's your chance. At 10am next Wednesday, at Hanson's AGM, he is to reveal to the world the new name of a 1,000-hectare development by Hanson Land known as the Peterborough Southern Township. What name will he announce? Offers on postcards only, please.

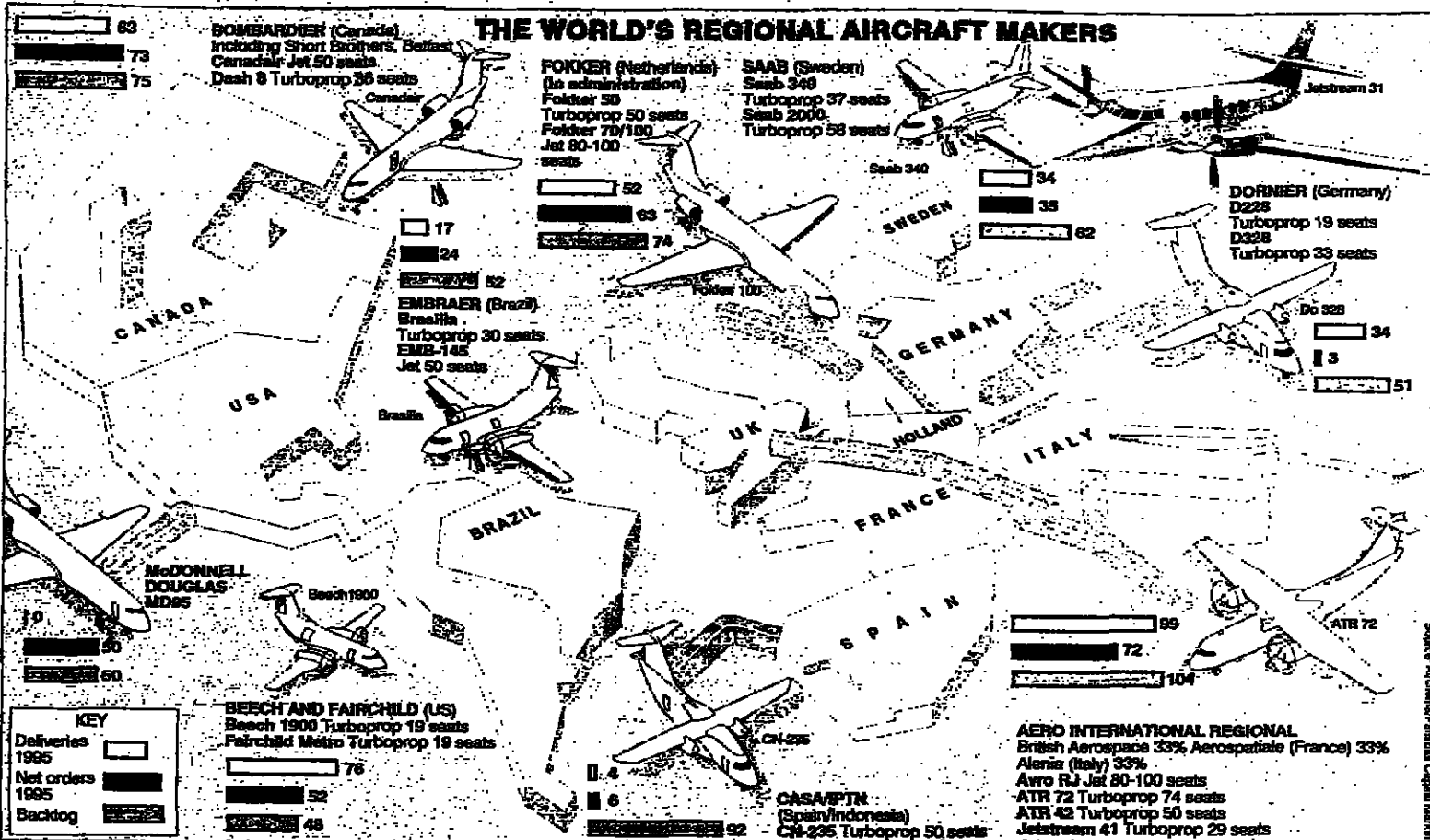


Pier glint

IF YOU see a NatWest bank manager wearing a tin hat, here's why. A campaign advertising "rock bottom" interest rates has backfired somewhat. The 225 branches that open on Saturday were given 8 inch sticks of pink, green and yellow striped rock, with "NatWest" through the centre, to hand out among the lucky branches were Brighton, East Grinstead, Scamthorpe, Grantham — but not Blackpool. Sadly, two metal staples were found in two of its 96,000 sticks. So NatWest ordered: Do not consume. Destroy or return to nearest NatWest branch. To date, we've had only 20 calls from customers to our hotline and no closed accounts," said its lady at the end of the pier.

ON MONDAY, in the wake of a High Court judgment in their favour (City Diary, January 13), nine private-client brokers formerly with Greig Middleton started at their new firm Brevin Dolphin in Birmingham. Yesterday, the 11-person institutional team that worked together at Greig Middleton in Glasgow were again united when three of the remaining four who had otherwise been on 12 months' gardening leave reported for duty at BD's Glasgow office.

COLIN CAMPBELL



Planemakers grounded by economics of common sense

Ross Tieman finds a revolution sweeping through the regional aircraft industry

Something truly remarkable is happening among the world's regional aircraft manufacturers. An outbreak of common sense is spreading like a virus, shrivelling state aid, killing off the weak.

Just how far this cull of an overpopulated and deeply unhealthy industry will be allowed to run before old vices reassert themselves will become clear over the next year or two. The Dutch Government is under intense pressure to perform yet another Fokker bail-out, while the Chinese and Koreans are clamouring to become aircraft assemblers.

Even so, the omens are better than at any time in the past half-century that economics will at last replace national ego and technology-obsessed engineers in the decision-making.

In the post-war years, almost every industrialised nation thought it needed an aerospace industry to secure its national defence and ensure its mastery of leading-edge technology. Regional planes — carrying 19 to 100 passengers, were seen as technically achievable and affordable. But the airline industry moved into bigger planes to win economies of scale, leaving too many little aircraft chasing too few tinpot airline customers.

At the same time, aero engineers in love with their craft and disdainful of cost created unaffordable machines. The wing of Dornier's pride and joy, the 328-110, is an engineering masterpiece, smooth as can be, with nary a rivet in sight. But who can afford to pay \$9.1 million dollars for a 33-seat turbo-prop?

Operators of planes like this run on a shoestring — their priorities are cheap to lease and cheap to fly. Local carriers with an eye to the bottom line rent second-hand planes from an over-supplied market and keep them in the air for decades. No wonder Dornier booked only nine orders for its 328 last year. The plane cost about DM1 billion (£446 million) to develop. Daimler-Benz, Dornier's parent, wants out. You can't run an aircraft business on numbers like those.

The rot started long ago. But several elements have combined to trigger the industry shakeout now under way. First, the aviation industry slump of the late 1980s and early 1990s under-

mined orders and prices, leaving the industry with massive overcapacity.

Governments invariably responded with subsidies. But as the losses have grown, taxpayers have become increasingly reluctant to help. Canada bit the bullet first, shuffling first to Havilland, then Canadair into the private sector, accompanied by a farewell payoff. Britain did the same with Short Brothers in Belfast, providing a third opportunity for Bombardier, the Canadian transport equipment group, to pick up something for next to nothing.

Now Daimler-Benz and the Dutch Government have taken fright at Fokker losses, estimated to total 3 billion guilders (£1.2 billion) and pulled the plug. And Charles Millon, the French Defence Minister, has announced his government's intention to address the problems of France's state-owned aerospace and defence contractors, who have built up massive losses selling aircraft and aero engines below cost.

Fokker's problems have been exacerbated by a new phenomenon: intense price competition at the bottom end of the airliner market. Determined to win back customers from Airbus Industrie, its upstart European rival, Boeing of America has been offering its smallest plane, the 108 to 132-seat Boeing 737, for as little as \$20 million, betting on a 25 per cent cut in production costs by the time the planes have to be delivered. McDonnell Douglas, meanwhile, was so desperate to launch its 95-seat MD-95 twin-jet that it cut prices to little more than \$15 million a plane to win a 50-aircraft order from ValueJet, an American carrier. This had a devastating impact on the price that airlines were willing to pay for Fokker's 109-seat F100 twin-jet, which used to sell for \$24 to \$30 million. The company racked up massive losses. British

Aerospace, whose Avro RJ "whisper jet" is the prime competitor for the F100 and its smaller sister, the F70, has faced a similar challenge. But BAE confronted its regional aircraft problem back in 1992, using the cashflow from its big defence business to take a £1 billion write-off for losses and restructuring.

The result is that BAE now claims to be the most cost-effective aircraft structures-maker in the world. Its Avro regional jet business has cut production to just 18 a year, booked 37 net orders in 1995, and aims to get back into profit in 1997. BAE's Jetstream turbo-prop business has ended production of the ATP and halted output of the 19-seat Jetstream 31. It now makes just one plane, the 29-seat Jetstream 41, at a reduced rate.

In the long-term, even the future of that product must be in doubt. For without regard for the pain suffered in the West, some developing countries are using their low labour costs to undercut prices on smaller planes. Embraer of Brazil, now owned by a buyout team including Wasserstein Perella, the New York buyout artists, has unveiled a surprisingly good 50-seat regional jet, the EMB-145. And in Indonesia, IPTN, the state aircraft company, has achieved certification for its 50-seat CN-235 turbo-prop and with orders guaranteed from national airlines.

Russian manufacturers, too, have the skills, capacity and low labour costs needed to mount a strong challenge in regional aircraft markets, if they can learn commercial skills. Picking likely survivors is not easy but there are some favourites. First, Aero International Regional (AIR), a regional aircraft marketing operation formed by BAE and ATR, a Franco-Italian joint venture that builds turbo-props in Toulouse, France. AIR is

owned equally by BAE, Aerospatiale, the French state aircraft company, and Alenia, part of state-controlled Finmeccanica. By combining in this way, the partners can share the high cost of sales and support to small aircraft around the world, while intensifying pressure on their independently-owned assembly companies to reduce costs. But competitiveness and profitability will not be achieved overnight, especially at ATR, which is burdened by high social costs and old-fashioned attitudes.

The second likely survivor is Bombardier, which has proved adept at rationalising former state-owned plants, cutting costs, and using computers for simultaneous design engineering around the world to cut development costs and speed programmes. It could yet pick the bones from the Fokker jet business, slotting the F70/F100 above its own, newly launched 50-seat Canadair jet.

The third survivor is Saab Aircraft as a niche player, thanks to its Saab 2000 high-speed, 58-seat turbo-prop, although it might combine with another player. Further consolidation is inevitable: so is the extension of partnership arrangements. Governments and industry are beginning to acknowledge that developing a 100-seat jet costs little less than building a 400-seater selling for four times the price. If the 100-seater is to pay its way, sales volumes must be much higher.

To secure markets, and accommodate Asian industrial ambitions, AIR is now competing against Boeing to partner China and Korea in designing and producing an Asian Express 100-seat jet. For AIR, this would be an opportunity to improve access to the world's fastest-growing aircraft market, replace the Avro range while sharing the \$2 billion development cost, and perhaps to recruit Chinese partners to contribute to developing a new Airbus super-jumbo, the A3XX.

Boeing, which already has Japanese partners on its 777 super-jumbo, has similar goals. Regional aircraft manufacture is at last becoming a commercial, and international business, governed by the laws of economics. Taxpayers across Europe should heave a sigh of relief.

As losses have grown, taxpayers have become increasingly reluctant to help

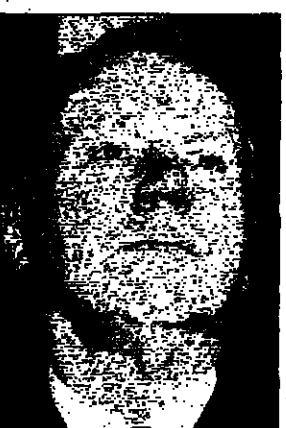
Customer is ultimate stakeholder

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, triggered off a new stage in the political debate when he launched his "Stakeholder Society" idea on an unsuspecting nation.

Interpretation and reactions varied wildly, as friend and foe alike tried on the new clothes for size — and mostly found that they could be adjusted and trimmed to fit pretty well any political figure from Seventies-style trade unionism to shapes well to the right of the political centre.

A wagon for everyone to hitch his team to, or a complex new theme to be developed and polished over time? Or perhaps just an empty slogan, as most opponents have hastened to charge.

It is dangerous for a politically innocent businessman to wander far into the pre-election minefield of controversial social ideas, and I have no intention of doing so. On the other hand, the concept of "stakeholders" has well-defined meaning in business theory, and there may be some value in setting it out in simple terms — at least as seen through the eyes of a practitioner of nearly 40 years' experience in one of the world's largest and most successful companies. I leave it to Mr Blair and his friends to draw the parallels — if they see any.



Tony Blair's new concept already has a clear meaning in everyday business, says Sir Michael Perry, left



ent that it meets and satisfies — in quantifiable and measured terms — the needs and requirements of a variety of stakeholders. The providers of its resources — shareholders, lenders and employees, the providers of its services — suppliers, agents and distributors, the providers of its context — society and governments.

The company answers those complex but interrelated challenges by one single means — by satisfying its customers or consumers with goods or services which they have agreed to purchase, at a price which demonstrates value added. Its ultimate stakeholder, therefore, is its customer, without whose approval the whole process is meaningless.

In a free market economy like ours, the whole boiling works, because the customer

of all our goods and services enjoys unfettered freedom to choose between competing offerings, which are forced by that very fact of choice to vie with each other for customer favour. It is the reality of competition in the marketplace which ensures that the demands of all the other stakeholders — often in harmony, but sometimes sharply in conflict with each other — remain in balance.

On this view, the economy as a whole can be seen as a complex web of interrelated and interdependent business systems, operating in accordance with values, norms and standards for which there is consent by society. That consent may be challenged and, over time, modified by changing ideas, such as, in recent years, by deepening and shifting per-

ceptions of the impact of our actions on the environment. Also the precise nature of social consent may be subject to constant redefinition, but our very system depends on the existence of values, norms and standards which competitive "stakeholding" companies have to satisfy.

There is nothing soft, woolly or "liberal" about that concept — just hard, everyday business reality. The disciplines of competition are very exacting. Within the company itself, these realities apply. Employees of all levels are both resource and stakeholder. As resource, they are subject to all the rigours of competitive reality — their number, their quality, their training, their cost. Their position as stakeholders is dictated by personal and family necessity, guaran-

teed by the competitive need of the company for their services, and enshrined in the principles and norms of our society. Just to hammer it home, employees are increasingly shareholders too.

As the forces of global competition intensify, the pressure on companies increases both to economise on the number of employees they deploy as a resource, yet to strengthen their long-term commitment and develop their full potential as stakeholders. There are wider consequences for society in terms of long-term unemployment and social exclusion. It is primarily for politicians, not business people, to address these problems, which is why stakeholding as a concept can reach beyond the firm.

However, the role of management is clear. Quite simply to maximise the benefit to the whole undertaking of getting the stakeholder balance right. For companies, getting it right is no easier than it is for politicians. And the consequences of getting it wrong can be just as terminal.

Best management practice today sets out to harness all those stakeholder interests in pursuit of the same goal: the securing and retaining of customer preference. In politics, the customer is the voter. Bon chance, Mr Blair.

Sir Michael Perry is the chairman of Unilever

Learning from the successes of the 'Tigers'

Edward Stourton on achieving social cohesion and economic growth

THE area around Shenzhen, the special economic zone just across Hong Kong's border with China, boasts the fastest economic growth in the world. The millionaires who have built their fortunes on the back of Deng Xiaoping's capitalist experiment cannot leave the country to spend what they have made, so the prices of luxury goods have inflated wildly: a not especially good bottle of brandy costs the equivalent of £900.

The average income in China's poorest agricultural regions can be as low as £100 a year, someone earning that would have to work for nine years without spending to accumulate the cost of a decent drink in Shenzhen.

The existence of such extremes of wealth and poverty within a single nation is a vivid illustration of the dangers of economic growth without social cohesion: there are some China watchers who believe regional economic inequalities could turn the Middle Kingdom into a Bosnia on a monstrous scale.

achieved with little dissent. The Malaysians offer that success as an answer to one of the big puzzles in the debate about the economic impact of Asian values. Some of the virtues lumped together under that term are obviously economic: it is easy to see why hard work can drive economic growth, and the Asian tradition of thrift is reflected in the high savings rates of many Tiger economies. But why should the Confucian respect for family, community and authority contribute to economic success? Chris Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, points out that not so long ago Confucianism was being blamed for the lack of economic progress in East Asia.

The Malaysian response is that those values have made it possible to achieve the social cohesion they need to keep growing. Chinese business, with most to lose from positive discrimination, seems to accept partly because of the cultural tradition that sees the nation as an extension of family and partly because of a pragmatic calculation about the consequences of racial rancour.

The debate about Asian values is beginning to make the transition from the world of academe to the field of political battle. There are those who argue that Asia is simply enjoying

a self-confident phase of development and that its values will be eroded as surely as Victorian values have in Britain. Others, like David Howell, the Conservative MP, say that "these societies may not be behind us, catching up and going through what we went through... they may be societies which are leapfrogging our trials and tribulations... and going down another path".

The most provocative comment in my investigation came not from Asia but America. Peter Berger, of the Institute for the Study of Economic Culture in Boston, says that in the West's high-tech and consumption based economies the values prized in Asia could be positively damaging: that "wastefulness not saving, buying on credit, interest in self-realisation rather than working for one's grandchildren" could be the new economic virtues. "Not," he admitted, "a morally edifying vision — but it could be economically functional".

Asia Gold, Sunday, January 28, 4.15pm.



Patten: blame factor

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	gross interest rate p.a.	gross interest compounded annual rate
Reserve Account for Businesses/Charities/Societies		
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£125,000-£99,999	3.375%	3.42%
£10,000-£24,999	2.75%	2.78%
High Interest Clients Accounts		
£100,000+	3.75%	3.80%
£125,000-£99,999	3.375%	3.42%
£10,000-£24,999	2.75%	2.78%
7 Day Notice Deposit Account	1.00%	1.00%

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Unions welcome CBI backing for higher real pay

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

TRADE UNION and Labour Party leaders yesterday welcomed the Confederation of British Industry's endorsement of higher real wages and employees having a larger slice of the country's wealth.

The shift by the confederation may alarm some CBI traditionalists, but the new business line on pay could prove attractive to ministers in the Government's new economic drive, agreed by the Cabinet this week, to try to

promote the return of the "feel-good" factor.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, led the approval of the shift on pay signalled by Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, in a speech to personnel managers yesterday, which he said "clearly recognised that a valued, well-motivated workforce" was good for business. The TUC leader said: "This is the way to promote competitiveness and protect individuals at work."

In his speech, previewed by *The Times* yesterday, Mr Turner gave some support to Labour's stakeholder proposals. A senior Labour source said: "What the director-general is recognising is that economies which grow fastest are those with companies who involve their workers in the future of the company. We have long argued that the route to competitiveness for Britain is not down the road of low wages and cheap labour but of building a workforce with high skills and high technology."

In his speech to an Institute of Personnel and Development conference, Mr Turner said it was not in the economy's interest for employees to continue to be given an ever-smaller slice of the country's wealth. "We must develop a framework giving employees opportunities, prospects and participation in the economy's success — dare I say a stakeholding," he said.

He told the conference in London: "We cannot expect, and would not want, the share of national income given to wages to decline indefinitely. As we achieve sustained economic growth, we must expect that average earnings growth will tend to exceed price rises over the long run. This will not be economic suicide, if reward is driven by the right factors: namely sustainable productivity and profitability improvements."

While he was not giving the green light to a pay giveaway, Mr Turner said that Britain could now afford longer-term growth in real wages because the wage-price spiral has been broken in this recovery thanks to greater labour market flexibility.

The rival Institute of Directors said its position on pay was unchanged: "It's up to the market and employers to decide the level necessary to retain good employees."



Home front: Ian Homersham, left, and George Pope

Mixed fortunes in property market

By Martin Barrow

JOHN D WOOD, the residential estate agent, said demand for property in the better streets and squares of central London had lifted prices to a record in the past six months.

But the market fared less well in peripheral areas, where there is more caution and less confidence. In the country business had been restricted by the lack of property coming on to the market

as potential vendors await an upturn in prices.

The company, where George Pope and Ian Homersham are joint chairmen, is holding the interim dividend at 0.75p a share after pre-tax profits fell to £231,000 from £301,000 in the year to October 31. Earnings fell to 1.8p (2.3p) a share.

The increasing value of agricultural land was attracting investors, with farms achieving reassuringly good prices.

Standard Chartered dismisses bid talk

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

SHARES in Standard Chartered took a tumble yesterday after the bank said that it was not in bid talks.

A brief statement was made in response to a request from the London Stock Exchange, which had become concerned about recent rises in its share price.

On Friday, the shares rose 5 per cent to 618p and yesterday they hit 662½p, an increase of 101½p, or 18 per cent, this month, before the announcement sent them back to 638p.

Standard Chartered had refused to comment on speculation at the weekend centred on a possible bid from NatWest, or a German bank.

However, in response to the inquiry from the Stock Exchange, Standard Chartered said that it was not aware of any circumstances leading to the recent movement in its share price.

But analysts believe that Standard Chartered remains a bid target. There have also been reports that it is close to a sale of its loss-making Asian securities business.

Last week saw four positive reports from brokers on Standard Chartered. BZW said the bank had growth potential and that its share price could reach 710p.

It predicted that increased loan losses, higher margins and tight cost control would contribute to a 16 per cent growth in earnings this year. BZW is forecasting pre-tax profits of £640 million for 1995, up from £510 million in 1994.

Malcolm Williamson, Standard Chartered's chief executive, said in a staff note last November that the board saw the future of the bank as an independent company.

NatWest has refused to comment on the bid rumours. But it has recently stated that its objectives are to build up its investment banking, private banking and UK retail franchise, means that Standard Chartered is not a logical choice.

Surge in bad debts hits bank profits

NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK, which owns the Yorkshire Bank, Clydesdale Bank and Northern Bank, yesterday blamed a deteriorating economic climate in Britain for a surge in bad debts. Unveiling a fall in profits from its UK and Irish banking activities from \$99 million (£44.2 million) to \$79 million for the first quarter of the year to December, the bank said that it had been forced to raise its provisions for bad debts at the Yorkshire Bank.

National Australia Bank, which has made no secret of its desire to make further acquisitions in the UK, particularly southern England, however pushed up its overall net profits 11.8 per cent to \$513 million, helped by a first-time contribution from Michigan National Bank, its new US acquisition. Don Argus, managing director, said that activity was slowing in all of the economies in which the bank operated.

TATE & LYLE, the sugar producer, said yesterday it sees first-quarter profits "modestly above" last year's for the same period and in line with its own expectations. This would be in spite of a decline at Staley, its US subsidiary. The impact on earnings will be mitigated by the hedging position taken on maize and further cost reductions. Tate & Lyle said. Group pre-tax profits for the first half of the current financial year are expected to be ahead of last year, when they were £152.8 million. The company's shares fell 8p to 463p.

Tate & Lyle ahead

WITAN, the investment trust managed by Henderson Touche Remnant, saw a 15.5 per cent rise in net asset value per share, to 290.8p, in the year to December 31. Earnings per share were 1.65p per cent, up from 1.45p. The dividend for the year rises from 6.1p to 6.45p, with a final payment of 3.5p due on March 14. Witan said its long-term policy was to invest in a diversified international portfolio. It said that there is no reason to think that markets are about to collapse, and predicted that, as long as earnings continue to impress, markets will climb higher.

Witan advances

TUGENDHAT for Circle. LORD TUGENDHAT is to be the next chairman of Blue Circle Industries, the construction materials company. He will succeed Sir Peter Walters, who is to retire after the company's annual meeting, on May 22. Lord Tugendhat, who yesterday joined the board of Blue Circle as non-executive director, remains chairman of Abbey National and a non-executive director of the BOC Group and Eurotunnel. He was chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority for five years and is a former vice-president of the European Commission.

Charity funds recover

UK charity funds achieved a total return of 19 per cent in 1995, recovering strongly from a poor showing in 1994, when they recorded a negative return of -5 per cent. The WM Company's preliminary survey of UK charity fund performance said that, over a five-year period, returns averaged 15 per cent a year, against retail price inflation of about 3 per cent. Over a ten-year period, charity funds have beaten inflation by about 8 per cent a year. The average UK charity yield was about 5 per cent in 1995, slightly up from 1994.

Lookers makes £25m Ulster deal

By Martin Barrow

LOOKERS, the motor distribution company, is to buy Northern Ireland's largest car dealership group, the Charles Hurst Group, in a cash and shares deal worth £25.3 million.

Hurst represents ten car manufacturers from a single 15-acre site at Boucher Road, Belfast. The business was formerly listed, but was taken private in 1985.

Lookers, of which Ken

Martindale is chairman, plans to raise £10.8 million from a rights issue of new shares at 125p each and a subscription by Hamilton Finance for 975,000 shares at 144p. Existing shares remained at 144p yesterday.

Hamilton, a subsidiary of Woodchester Investments, the Irish-based financial services group, owns almost 30 per cent of Lookers, to fall to 24.4 per cent after the rights issue and an issue of convertible shares to Hurst's vendors.

Lookers will use the new funds to pay a £19.5 million cash consideration for Hurst, along with bank borrowings of up to £7.4 million. In addition, Lookers is to sell to Woodchester the assets of Adelaide, Hurst's finance business, for £3.4 million.



Martindale: buying dealer

PUBLIC NOTICES

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

Brass and Glass Star Ceiling Lantern
ex Carlos Remes Ltd.

A potential electrical safety hazard has been identified on some of the above range of electrical light fittings.

If you have purchased one of these fittings, please contact or return it to the outlet from which you bought it, where advice or a full refund will be given.

These fittings have been on sale for two years and have been sold by the following major retail outlets: John Lewis Partnership, House of Fraser, Liberty Plc.

In addition, the fitting has been sold through a number of small independent retail outlets.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity Commission of England
Scheme for the regulation
of charities.
The Charity Commission has received information from the Charity Commission that a charity, the "The Charity Commission", has been found to be in breach of the provisions of the Charities Act 1960. The Charity Commission has therefore taken action against the charity, and has ordered it to pay a fine of £10,000. The Charity Commission has also ordered the charity to pay costs of £5,000. The Charity Commission has also ordered the charity to pay interest of £1,000. The Charity Commission has also ordered the charity to pay a total of £16,000. The Charity Commission has also ordered the charity to pay a total of £16,000.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above company, in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at 10.30am on Thursday 26th January 1996 at the offices of the Liquidator, Mr. J. D. Goodman, 15th Floor, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The purpose of the meeting is to receive a statement of affairs and to elect a Liquidator. The meeting is open to all creditors of the company. A list of the names and addresses of the creditors is being sent to them by post. Any creditor who has not received notice of the meeting should apply to the Liquidator for a copy. The Liquidator's office is open from 10.00am to 5.00pm on weekdays. The Liquidator's office is closed on public holidays. The Liquidator's office is also open on Saturdays from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on Sundays from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on Bank Holidays from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on Good Friday from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on Easter Monday from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on May Day from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on June 1st from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on July 1st from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on August 1st from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on September 1st from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on October 1st from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on November 1st from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on December 1st from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on January 1st from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on February 1st from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The Liquidator's office is also open on March 1st from 10.00am to 1.00pm. 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Losses extended at close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1936		1935		1934		1933		1932		1931		1930		1929		1928		1927		1926		1925		1924		1923		1922		1921		1920		1919		1918		1917		1916		1915		1914		1913		1912		1911		1910		1909		1908		1907		1906		1905		1904		1903		1902		1901		1900		1899		1898		1897		1896		1895		1894		1893		1892		1891		1890		1889		1888		1887		1886		1885		1884		1883		1882		1881		1880		1879		1878		1877		1876		1875		1874		1873		1872		1871		1870		1869		1868		1867		1866		1865		1864		1863		1862		1861		1860		1859		1858		1857		1856		1855		1854		1853		1852		1851		1850		1849		1848		1847		1846		1845		1844		1843		1842		1841		1840		1839		1838		1837		1836		1835		1834		1833		1832		1831		1830		1829		1828		1827		1826		1825		1824		1823		1822		1821		1820		1819		1818		1817		1816		1815		1814		1813		1812		1811		1810		1809		1808		1807		1806		1805		1804		1803		1802		1801		1800		1799		1798		1797		1796		1795		1794		1793		1792		1791		1790		1789		1788		1787		1786		1785		1784		1783		1782		1781		1780		1779		1778		1777		1776		1775		1774		1773		1772		1771		1770		1769		1768		1767		1766		1765		1764		1763		1762		1761		1760		1759		1758		1757		1756		1755		1754		1753		1752		1751		1750		1749		1748		1747		1746		1745		1744		1743		1742		1741		1740		1739		1738		1737		1736		1735		1734		1733		1732		1731		1730		1729		1728		1727		1726		1725		1724		1723		1722		1721		1720		1719		1718		1717		1716		1715		1714		1713		1712		1711		1710		1709		1708		1707		1706		1705		1704		1703		1702		1701		1700		1699		1698		1697		1696		1695		1694		1693		1692		1691		1690		1689		1688		1687		1686		1685		1684		1683		1682		1681		1680		1679		1678		1677		1676		1675		1674		1673		1672		1671		1670		1669		1668		1667		1666		1665		1664		1663		1662		1661		1660		1659		1658		1657		1656		1655		1654		1653		1652		1651		1650		1649		1648		1647		1646		1645		1644		1643		1642		1641		1640		1639		1638		1637		1636		1635		1634		1633		1632		1631		1630		1629		1628		1627		1626		1625		1624		1623	
High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company																																																																																																																																																										

BREWERIES

279	160	Kaiser Hops	279	165	Beck's
280	161	Samuel	280	166	Beck's
281	162	Beck's	281	167	Beck's
282	163	Beck's	282	168	Beck's
283	164	Beck's	283	169	Beck's
284	165	Beck's	284	170	Beck's
285	166	Beck's	285	171	Beck's
286	167	Beck's	286	172	Beck's
287	168	Beck's	287	173	Beck's
288	169	Beck's	288	174	Beck's
289	170	Beck's	289	175	Beck's
290	171	Beck's	290	176	Beck's
291	172	Beck's	291	177	Beck's
292	173	Beck's	292	178	Beck's
293	174	Beck's	293	179	Beck's
294	175	Beck's	294	180	Beck's
295	176	Beck's	295	181	Beck's
296	177	Beck's	296	182	Beck's
297	178	Beck's	297	183	Beck's
298	179	Beck's	298	184	Beck's
299	180	Beck's	299	185	Beck's
300	181	Beck's	300	186	Beck's
301	182	Beck's	301	187	Beck's
302	183	Beck's	302	188	Beck's
303	184	Beck's	303	189	Beck's
304	185	Beck's	304	190	Beck's
305	186	Beck's	305	191	Beck's
306	187	Beck's	306	192	Beck's
307	188	Beck's	307	193	Beck's
308	189	Beck's	308	194	Beck's
309	190	Beck's	309	195	Beck's
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311	192	Beck's	311	197	Beck's
312	193	Beck's	312	198	Beck's
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315	196	Beck's	315	201	Beck's
316	197	Beck's	316	202	Beck's
317	198	Beck's	317	203	Beck's
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324	205	Beck's	324	210	Beck's
325	206	Beck's	325	211	Beck's
326	207	Beck's	326	212	Beck's
327	208	Beck's	327	213	Beck's
328	209	Beck's	328	214	Beck's
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330	211	Beck's	330	216	Beck's
331	212	Beck's	331	217	Beck's
332	213	Beck's	332	218	Beck's
333	214	Beck's	333	219	Beck's
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336	217	Beck's	336	222	Beck's
337	218	Beck's	337	223	Beck's
338	219	Beck's	338	224	Beck's
339	220	Beck's	339	225	Beck's
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342	223	Beck's	342	228	Beck's
343	224	Beck's	343	229	Beck's
344	225	Beck's	344	230	Beck's
345	226	Beck's	345	231	Beck's
346	227	Beck's	346	232	Beck's
347	228	Beck's	347	233	Beck's
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349	230	Beck's	349	235	Beck's
350	231	Beck's	350	236	Beck's
351	232	Beck's	351	237	Beck's
352	233	Beck's	352	238	Beck's
353	234	Beck's	353	239	Beck's
354	235	Beck's	354	240	Beck's

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

130	125	Albany	130	125	Albany
131	126	Albany	131	126	Albany
132	127	Albany	132	127	Albany
133	128	Albany	133	128	Albany
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200	195	Albany	200	195	Albany

164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
164	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
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WEAVING		INSURANCE					
20	20	175	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
21	21	176	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
22	22	177	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
23	23	178	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
24	24	179	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
25	25	180	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
26	26	181	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
27	27	182	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
28	28	183	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
29	29	184	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
30	30	185	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
31	31	186	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
32	32	187	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
33	33	188	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
34	34	189	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
35	35	190	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
36	36	191	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
37	37	192	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
38	38	193	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
39	39	194	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
40	40	195	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
41	41	196	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
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43	43	198	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
44	44	199	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
45	45	200	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
46	46	201	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
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51	51	206	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
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53	53	208	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
54	54	209	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
55	55	210	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
56	56	211	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
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58	58	213	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
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60	60	215	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
61	61	216	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
62	62	217	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
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64	64	219	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
65	65	220	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
66	66	221	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
67	67	222	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
68	68	223	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
69	69	224	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
70	70	225	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
71	71	226	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
72	72	227	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
73	73	228	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
74	74	229	Star & Ann	1250	4	32	25
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OTHER		OTHER	
1979	1980	1979	1980
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269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										

24	147	441	Bookbinder	178	5	24	172	716	660	520	Ally	1	2	3
25	148	442	Bookbinder	179	5	24	173	717	661	521	Ally	1	2	3
26	149	443	Bookbinder	180	5	24	174	718	662	522	Ally	1	2	3
27	150	444	Bookbinder	181	5	24	175	719	663	523	Ally	1	2	3
28	151	445	Bookbinder	182	5	24	176	720	664	524	Ally	1	2	3
29	152	446	Bookbinder	183	5	24	177	721	665	525	Ally	1	2	3
30	153	447	Bookbinder	184	5	24	178	722	666	526	Ally	1	2	3
31	154	448	Bookbinder	185	5	24	179	723	667	527	Ally	1	2	3
32	155	449	Bookbinder	186	5	24	180	724	668	528	Ally	1	2	3
33	156	450	Bookbinder	187	5	24	181	725	669	529	Ally	1	2	3
34	157	451	Bookbinder	188	5	24	182	726	670	530	Ally	1	2	3
35	158	452	Bookbinder	189	5	24	183	727	671	531	Ally	1	2	3
36	159	453	Bookbinder	190	5	24	184	728	672	532	Ally	1	2	3
37	160	454	Bookbinder	191	5	24	185	729	673	533	Ally	1	2	3
38	161	455	Bookbinder	192	5	24	186	730	674	534	Ally	1	2	3
39	162	456	Bookbinder	193	5	24	187	731	675	535	Ally	1	2	3
40	163	457	Bookbinder	194	5	24	188	732	676	536	Ally	1	2	3
41	164	458	Bookbinder	195	5	24	189	733	677	537	Ally	1	2	3
42	165	459	Bookbinder	196	5	24	190	734	678	538	Ally	1	2	3
43	166	460	Bookbinder	197	5	24	191	735	679	539	Ally	1	2	3
44	167	461	Bookbinder	198	5	24	192	736	680	540	Ally	1	2	3
45	168	462	Bookbinder	199	5	24	193	737	681	541	Ally	1	2	3
46	169	463	Bookbinder	200	5	24	194	738	682	542	Ally	1	2	3
47	170	464	Bookbinder	201	5	24	195	739	683	543	Ally	1	2	3
48	171	465	Bookbinder	202	5	24	196	740	684	544	Ally	1	2	3
49	172	466	Bookbinder	203	5	24	197	741	685	545	Ally	1	2	3
50	173	467	Bookbinder	204	5	24	198	742	686	546	Ally	1	2	3
51	174	468	Bookbinder	205	5	24	199	743	687	547	Ally	1	2	3
52	175	469	Bookbinder	206	5	24	200	744	688	548	Ally	1	2	3
53	176	470	Bookbinder	207	5	24	201	745	689	549	Ally	1	2	3
54	177	471	Bookbinder	208	5	24	202	746	690	550	Ally	1	2	3
55	178	472	Bookbinder	209	5	24	203	747	691	551	Ally	1	2	3
56	179	473	Bookbinder	210	5	24	204	748	692	552	Ally	1	2	3
57	180	474	Bookbinder	211	5	24	205	749	693	553	Ally	1	2	3
58	181	475	Bookbinder	212	5	24	206	750	694	554	Ally	1	2	3
59	182	476	Bookbinder	213	5	24	207							

PRINTING & PAPER												
347	142	367	130	55	12	302	373	626	591	563	77	0.8
348	143	368	131	56	12	303	374	627	592	564	78	
349	144	369	132	57	12	304	375	628	593	565	79	
350	145	370	133	58	12	305	376	629	594	566	80	
351	146	371	134	59	12	306	377	630	595	567	81	
352	147	372	135	60	12	307	378	631	596	568	82	
353	148	373	136	61	12	308	379	632	597	569	83	
354	149	374	137	62	12	309	380	633	598	570	84	
355	150	375	138	63	12	310	381	634	599	571	85	
356	151	376	139	64	12	311	382	635	600	572	86	
357	152	377	140	65	12	312	383	636	601	573	87	
358	153	378	141	66	12	313	384	637	602	574	88	
359	154	379	142	67	12	314	385	638	603	575	89	
360	155	380	143	68	12	315	386	639	604	576	90	
361	156	381	144	69	12	316	387	640	605	577	91	
362	157	382	145	70	12	317	388	641	606	578	92	
363	158	383	146	71	12	318	389	642	607	579	93	
364	159	384	147	72	12	319	390	643	608	580	94	
365	160	385	148	73	12	320	391	644	609	581	95	
366	161	386	149	74	12	321	392	645	610	582	96	
367	162	387	150	75	12	322	393	646	611	583	97	
368	163	388	151	76	12	323	394	647	612	584	98	
369	164	389	152	77	12	324	395	648	613	585	99	
370	165	390	153	78	12	325	396	649	614	586	100	
371	166	391	154	79	12	326	397	650	615	587		
372	167	392	155	80	12	327	398	651	616	588		
373	168	393	156	81	12	328	399	652	617	589		
374	169	394	157	82	12	329	400	653	618	590		
375	170	395	158	83	12	330	401	654	619	591		
376	171	396	159	84	12	331	402	655	620	592		
377	172	397	160	85	12	332	403	656	621	593		
378	173	398	161	86	12	333	404	657	622	594		
379	174	399	162	87	12	334	405	658	623	595		
380	175	400	163	88	12	335	406	659	624	596		
381	176	401	164	89	12	336	407	660	625	597		
382	177	402	165	90	12	337	408	661	626	598		
383	178	403	166	91	12	338	409	662	627	599		
384	179	404	167	92	12	339	410	663	628	600		
385	180	405	168	93	12	340	411	664	629	601		
386	181	406	169	94	12	341	412	665	630	602		
387	182	407	170	95	12	342	413	666	631	603		
388	183	408	171	96	12	343	414	667	632	604		
389	184	409	172	97	12	344	415	668	633	605		
390	185	410	173	98	12	345	416	669	634	606		
391	186	411	174	99	12	346	417	670	635	607		
392	187	412	175	100	12	347	418	671	636	608		
393	188	413	176			348	419	672	637	609		
394	189	414	177			349	420	673	638	610		
395	190	415	178			350	421	674	639	611		
396	191	416	179			351	422	675	640	612		
397	192	417	180			352	423	676	641	613		
398	193	418	181			353	424	677	642	614		
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401	196	421	184			356	427	680	645	617		
402	197	422	185			357	428	681	646	618		
403	198	423	186			358	429	682	647	619		
404	199	424	187			359	430	683	648	620		
405	200	425	188			360	431	684	649	621		
406	201	426	189			361	432	685	650	622		
407	202	427	190			362	433	686	651	623		
408	203	428	191			363	434	687	652	624		
409	204	429	192			364	435	688	653	625		
410	205	430	193			365	436	689	654	626		
411	206	431	194			366	437	690	655	627		
412	207	432	195			367	438	691	656	628		
413	208	433	196			368	439	692	657	629		
414	209	434	197			369	440	693	658	630		
415	210	435	198			370	441	694	659	631		
416	211	436	199			371	442	695	660	632		
417	212	437	200			372	443	696	661	633		
418	213	438	201			373	444	697	662	634		
419	214	439	202			374	445	698	663	635		
420	215	440	203			375	446	699	664	636		
421	216	441	204			376	447	700	665	637		
422	217	442	205			377	448	701	666	638		
423	218	443	206			378	449	702	667	639		
424	219	444	207			379	450	703	668	640		
425	220	445	208			380	451	704	669	641		
426	221	446	209			381	452	705	670	642		
427	222	447	210			382	453	706	671	643		
428	223	448	211			383	454	707	672	644		
429	224	449	212			384	455	708	673	645		
430	225	450	213			385	456	709	674	646		
431	226	451	214			386	457	710	675	647		
432	227	452	215			387	458	711	676	648		
433	228	453	216			3						

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POP 2

Punk is alive, brash and noisy on Rocket From the Crypt's abrasive album *Scream, Dracula, Scream!*



POP 3

Assembled on one disc for the benefit of his new young fans: the 'best' of Burt Bacharach



POP 4

Gene's ragbag of a new album confirms why they are not in the van of the Britpop brigade



POP 5

Strange brew: epic doses of 'post-rock' make up Tortoise's album *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*

Your mother should know

VARIOUS ARTISTS The Look of Love - The Classic Songs of Burt Bacharach

SO, THE word on the street is that easy-listening is hip, and cheesy is chic. In a bizarre turn of events, the melodically impoverished children of the techno generation have apparently taken a shine to the music of their grandparents. Forget Moby and the Chemical Brothers; Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra and Matt Monro are the "new" names to drop. Call me old-fashioned, but it was in order to avoid these people that I started listening to pop music in the first place.

Now comes *The Look of Love*, a compilation of songs written by two of the biggest cheeses of them all, Burt Bacharach and Hal David (although David's contribution seems to have been quietly airbrushed out of the new Bacharach mythology). And just because I can hum virtually every tune on the album does not mean I wish to hear any of them again now.

Still, here, on one handy disc are the songs that have driven lift engineers and supermarket staff to distraction for 30 years or more: *The Look of Love*, *Do You Know the Way to San Jose*, *Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head*, *Trains and Boats and Planes*, *Alfie*, *I'll Never Fall in Love Again*, *You'll Never Get to Heaven (If you Break My Heart)* and many more.

Although these are the original recordings by the stars who made them hits in the first place - Dusty Springfield, B.J. Thomas, Billy J. Kramer, Cilla Black, Bobby Gentry, the Stylistics and all the rest - the assaults which these songs have suffered nightly in cocktail lounges and karaoke bars the world over have inevitably taken their toll.

And to think we went through two Woodstocks for this.

GENE

To See the Lights (Costermonger GENE2) THEY have put a brave face on it, but after all the big talk at the time, Gene must surely have been disappointed that last year's debut album,

NEW ALBUMS: Burt Bacharach's

cheese is a hit again with the kids, but not with David Sinclair

Olympian, failed to put them in the front rank of the Britpop brigade.

Perhaps fearful of losing momentum while work proceeds on the follow-up, they now release *To See the Lights*, a stopgap collection of deleted singles, B-sides, radio sessions and dodgy live recordings of the kind that most acts only get around to assembling after they have split up.

At their best, as on the dreamy (and much sought-after) first single *For the Dead*, or the more upbeat *Sick, Sober & Sorry*, they elegantly combine the melancholy wit of the Smiths with the jaunty guitar sound of the Faces. At their worst, as on a live version of the Bacharach and David song *I Say a Little Prayer for You*, they sound like any old bar band with a less than average singer.

Committed fans will enjoy poring over this stuff for now. But, to get any further, Gene will need to achieve a lot more consistency and originality with the next batch of material, if and when it comes.

ROCKET FROM THE CRYPT

Scream, Dracula, Scream! (Elemental ELM34) RECENTLY, most American punk has been suspiciously well-tailored for the teen marketplace. But despite their cartoonish qualities and a brazen commitment to entertain, Rocket From the Crypt are the real deal.

A six-man group from San Diego boasting a horn section and led by a singer and guitarist called Speedo, they have distilled a super-propulsive sound from a range of influences, most obviously Iggy Pop, the Clash and Graham Parker and the Rumour. Exploding out of the traps like a rodeo bull, *Scream, Dracula, Scream!* be-

gins with a swift, one-minute burst of yobbo chanting called *Middle*, followed immediately by the hurtling battery of *Born In '69* with its flagrant chorus: "I want it, (Whoah, yeah) I need it (Whoah, yeah), I'll steal it (Alright!)." With nothing remotely resembling a ballad or slow song in sight, the album maintains its ballistic trajectory, delivering a barrage of thrusting riffs and exhilarating choruses before arriving, breathless but unbowed, at its finishing point 14 tracks and 43 minutes later. It's a gloriously vital, noisy and clever piece of work, and not a Bacharach song in sight.

TORTOISE Millions Now Living Will Never Die

(City Slang EFA 04972) THE "post-rock" conceptualist ensemble from Chicago, Tortoise, do not travel on the fast track. Exhibiting a lofty disregard for conventional song structures, their wholly instrumental second album kicks off with *Djed*, a 20-minute wander round the houses that takes in elements of Krautrock, dub-techno and systems music.

On the more conventional-sounding *Glass Museum* and *The Taut and Tame* they negotiate the sort of grandiose themes and tricky time signatures that have exercised the talents of progressive-rock bands from King Crimson to Ozric Tentacles, while *Along the Banks of Rivers* is a contrastingly simple excursion into the pop-noir world of trip-hop twang.

Their willingness to stretch and shape their music across unlikely boundaries is laudable, and produces many isolated flashes of inspiration. But the album sounds patchy and suffers from a rather desultory feel overall.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 (What's the Story) Morning Glory?..... Oasis (Creation)
- 2 Different Class..... Pulp (Island)
- 3 Jagged Little Pill..... Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
- 4 First Love..... Michael Ball (Columbia)
- 5 Robson & Jerome..... Robson & Jerome (RCA)
- 6 Boys for Pele..... Toni Amos (East West)
- 7 HiStory..... Michael Jackson (Epic)
- 8 Said and Done..... Boyzone (Polydor)
- 9 Something to Remember..... Madonna (Maverick)
- 10 All Change..... Cast (Polydor)

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Rocket From the Crypt: an exhilarating mixture of Iggy Pop, the Clash and Graham Parker and the Rumour

BLUES

These boys can play

John Hammond/
Duke Robillard
Borderline, WC2

THERE have been enough histories of the blues written to fill a small library. John Hammond and fellow American guitarist Duke Robillard provided their own with a set which took a capacity audience from the Mississippi Delta to urban Chicago.

Hammond, as befitted an artist whose father booked Robert Johnson for Carnegie Hall (death, alas, intervened) supplied the first chapter with a solo acoustic set. His heartfelt, sometimes eerie vocals and stinging bottleneck guitar conjured up a style of prewar blues most of us only know from record.

In contrast, chapter two - courtesy of Robillard, sax man Gordon Beadle and acoustic bass-player Marty Ballou - plunged the audience straight into the juke joints of Texas and Los Angeles with the music of Joe Turner, B.B. King and Robillard's personal hero, T-Bone Walker. Technically superb, Robillard played with a swing and a restraint too often lacking in blues performers.

The final chapter had Hammond joining Robillard on stage for the Jimmy Reed title track of Hammond's new album, *Found Love*, plus a joyful tribute to two founding fathers of rock'n'roll: Bo Diddley's *Diddley Daddy* and a song Hammond confessed he had been playing for ever, Chuck Berry's *Nadine*.

Can white men play the blues? Hammond and Robillard did - and won by a more than convincing margin.

JOHN CLARKE

Carapace at the gates of dawn

Tortoise are very, very strange. The twitching, pulsing signature changes that made Carla Bley's *Escalator over the Hill* and John Coltrane's most spaced-out, arrhythmic wailings so compulsive are the under-carriage for lonely synthesizers and what sounds like a food-mixer being kicked down a flight of stairs.

There's nothing so crass as tunes or vocals; just endless, 16-second symphonies strung together haphazardly, like those junk-jewellery necklaces your mother would let you make with the contents of her button box and a length of twine. Think of the shock you received when first listening to My Bloody Valentine or Bark Psychosis. This, like theirs, is music that sounds as if it's emanating from the body, rather than through an amp or microphone: swirls of adrenalin, weird gurgling digestive sounds and the heart beating constantly away, like a fuzzy, distorted bass-drum. This is definitely, defiantly not Britpop.

Of course, the problem with these arty, prog-jazz experimental musicians is that they are utterly struck dumb by their musings, and find stringing a sentence together very difficult. Johnny, the keyboard player, drummer and vibraphone master of Tortoise, is trying to explain their second album, *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, and the ethos behind the floating membership of the band.

For me, it's like being sucked back into the dark days of shoe-gazing - 15 bands and not a quote between them. Take a simple, ordinary, standard interview question like, "What would you do if Tortoise became the centre of a huge bidding war, and you were eventually signed to EMI for £1 million? What would you spend the money on?" "Well," Johnny ponders, "I

Tortoise don't write tunes or sing songs. Instead, they make me cry



Tortoise, the band that likes to say: "Experiment"

don't think that will happen. We're kinda too weird."

No, but imagine. Pretend. "Well, I think we're too uncommercial for EMI. They'd never sign us."

It's a hypothetical question. Just pretend. Like a dream.

"Well, they just wouldn't."

Please. Fantasize. "Well, if I, like, won a million or something, then I guess I'd, uh, give some to my parents, and buy a new snare drum... or maybe some recording equipment."

It's only when we start discussing technical things that Johnny springs to life. Like all avant-gardists, the possibilities of the recording studio turn him on in the way Rolls-Royces and eyebrow-gel

get to Noel Gallagher. We're talking about the weird, 20-second sections between songs that sound exactly like someone's put a bacon sandwich in the CD player and it's about to explode. "That's accidental," Johnny effervesces. "We didn't know how to link the tracks, and we had maybe three dozen four-inch pieces of tape on the studio floor, and we stuck them all together and it sounded like a lightning-bolt had hit the mixing desk - the kind of sound you could only find by accident. That's one of the things about Tortoise: things should be accidental, and things should be educational."

What, you have little pub-quizzes about Charlie Mingus



CAITLIN MORAN

and hi-hats and so on? "No - educational in that we all learn through Tortoise: learn to master our instruments, open up music to mean something entirely different from what is expected."

"Y'know, we're all from Chicago, and it's real hard to find unusual music there. It's different here in England: you go walking down the street and you trip over drum'n'bass, reggae, dub, roots... And there's a lot of cross-pollination and breeding of hybrids within the music."

"In America you would never have had drum'n'bass invented - those who are into reggae go to reggae clubs, and those into break-beat stay in their break-beat clubs. There would never have been a fusion of the two styles."

And it's with fusion that Tortoise really come into their own. *Along the Banks of Rivers*, the last track on Tortoise's new album, drifts through Pink Floyd, Miles Davis's *Kind of Blue* and Talk Talk's *Spirit of Eden* before collapsing under its own weight and quietly fading out of existence.

It's one of the most perfectly understated expressions of Sunday morning hangovers and heartache ever put down. An utterly timeless piece of music.

To celebrate its shivering gorgeousness, I attempt one last, light-hearted question. Why did you choose the album title *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* - is it a statement about the immortality that musicians enjoy?

"No," Johnny says. "It's a Seventh Day Adventist slogan from the Thirties - something to do with the Apocalypse."

So it's nothing to do with the feeling that, with the raked splendour of this album, Tortoise will live forever?

"Well no, we're all going to die sometime, obviously. Everyone dies."

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EDUCATION

What the Harriet Harman row tells us about education policy — and why another parent echoes her decision

Enough to try the patience of St Olave

It is time to stop shouting and address real issues, says Denis MacShane

If all the comments and columns written this week were pasted together and sent to every parent, teacher, child and politician, would the cause of improving England's under-performing school system be advanced one iota? A visitor from the Continent or Asia would simply blink with amazement at the posturing from all political sides and ask when the English were going to stop shouting slogans and insults at each other and get down to serious debate.

I was ashamed to be an MP on Monday night as a debate about nursery school vouchers was transformed into an Orwellian hate session by ministers and backbenchers whose only purpose was to tear at the flesh of Harriet Harman. To be sure, her decision to prioritise her duty as a parent is open to legitimate political criticism but there was something foul and unhealthy in the desire of ministers and their followers to shunt aside discussion about the provision of nursery places in order to hound her.

As the father of four children under the age of ten, I live the agonies of the English education system. Having lived and worked in Switzerland and France, the failure of education policy-makers in Whitehall to compel parents and teachers to accept their responsibilities for education is astounding. No other country in Europe has allowed standards to fall so low or permitted the individual's cheque book to determine the schooling of the future citizen. No other country would allow education to be reduced to the chanting of simple slogans about "choice" versus "comprehensives".

Yesterday's gloomy test results reinforce last week's study showing that the teaching of arithmetic in English schools was two years behind that in Germany or Switzerland, and, from personal experience, I would add France and The Netherlands. Two of my daughters attend a superb primary school in inner London where an outstanding headteacher has created a spirit of discipline and work that would satisfy the oldest of traditionalists.

Yet the other day I was playing Monopoly with the girls and, to my horror, discovered that such is the national curriculum view of numeracy standards needed in schools that my daughter has difficulty in calculating the correct change from 100 Monopoly pounds when asked to pay the rent on Trafalgar Square.

A Conservative might say I should pay for a private school where maths would be better taught, and a Labour colleague might urge me to hire a tutor. But if I lived in France or Switzerland it



Would any other country allow education to be reduced to the chanting of simple slogans about choice versus comprehensives?

would be my right as a citizen to expect high-standard teaching in public education.

The crisis of maths teaching should have been debated in Parliament, but England's immutable adversarial system of yab-yoo politics does not permit such debate. So tomorrow, with the help of BT, I have organised a debate in Rotherham on England's educational needs. David Blunkett will make one keynote speech, as will Professor Brian Cox, editor of the "Black Papers" on education.

On Saturday afternoon there will be a proper debate on the subject of selection and vouchers in schools. Speaking in favour will be Stephen Pollard, of the Fabian Society, and speaking against will be Alan Howarth, the former Tory Education Minister. From the clash of their views will come, I hope, some synthesis about how children are guided to the best pathways for their abilities and how all this might be paid for.

Various nieces and nephews have gone through the French and

Swiss school systems and were never obliged to take an exam at 11, which would have divided them into the sheep and goats beloved of the Darwinian selectionists now baying for a return to the grammar school-secondary modern divide of the 1950s. To be sure, there is streaming and guidance on the Continent, and a much stronger commitment to technical training which does not have the oily hands, second-class image of apprenticeship and vocational formation that it does in England. It is easier to switch between schools and choices are made at 13 or older, not the absurdly early age of 11.

Can education policy-makers in Whitehall be humble enough to admit they might be able to learn from other countries? Tomorrow, teachers, parents and the business leaders of Rotherham and South Yorkshire will be able to decide for themselves what might be the best way forward for the English national educational system. I deliberately write system, in the singular, because the key lesson from our more successful European and Asian competitor-partners is that

education cannot be reduced to a set of competing, winner-and-loser institutions based on the nostrums of the market-place in which money is lord of all.

I also emphasise "English" because the Scots do not seem to have anything like the same agonies that the English do over education. Is this because all Scottish teachers are in one union, in contrast to the plethora of competing, often stupidly squabbling unions representing teachers in English schools? Or is it because Scots examinations are much closer to the French *baccalauréat* or German *Abitur* or Swiss *maturité* with a broader range of subjects taught and examined instead of the narrow range of A levels?

Or is it the tradition of Calvinist learning personified in the dominie, the schoolmaster who was looked to with respect in contrast to the social and financial devaluation of the teacher in schools and universities in England? Or is it the Scottish elite don't like signing huge cheques to pay for their sons and daughters to be socially segregated in fee-paying establishments?

My mother and half my aunts and uncles are Scottish school-teachers and I have often thought that there is nothing wrong with the English school system that handing it over to the Scots couldn't put right.

Experts from Scotland and on European education systems will speak in Rotherham tomorrow. We do not need to reinvent the wheel, nor apply the wrong ideologies of the 1960s or 1980s to England's schools. But education policy-makers must be ready to learn and discuss and to debate.

That process is all but impossible in Westminster and Whitehall. I am glad to be leaving the heat of the Commons for the cool light of South Yorkshire where I will learn more tomorrow about what's wrong with our education policy and how to put it right than I will from any amount of time spent listening to ministers scoring sound-bite points and refusing to debate the real issues.

● The author is the Labour MP for Rotherham.

BLAIR ROCKED BY CLASS WAR

PRESCOTT RAGES AT HARRIET

Short stirs Labour education row

Labour fury at Harman 'hypocrisy'

CAN HARRIET NOW SURVIVE?

Labour voters want the best for their children, too

I have a confession to make: like Harriet Harman, I am also the mother of one of the four "high flyers" who passed this year's entrance examination to St Olave's School from Dulwich Hamlet.

Without the need to maintain a high political profile, I could be said not to have to worry about the implications of such a decision. But as a Labour-voting teacher in the inner city for 16 years, I am aware that some of my friends and colleagues will be raising an eyebrow when told about this good fortune.

For a left-wing (if, indeed, a Labour voter may still be thus described) parent living in London to opt for selective education is neither hypocritical nor confused: it is a pragmatic choice to make. Pragmatic politicians I find reassuring; it is ideologies I find worrying. Ms Harman's son has been accused of taking a place in this "Kent" school away from a more local pupil. In fact, St Olave's has been hijacked by the London Borough of Bromley, where it is now situated, having been founded "through charitable effort of the people of Southwark for its 'younglings' — of which, Joseph, a resident of Southwark, is one. If young Joseph were female, he could have gone to St Olave's sister school, situated in the politically correct, if aesthetically unappealing, Old Kent Road, and all would have been well.

If inner-city schools often have poor exam results and a level of violence that no caring parent would knowingly want to unleash on their offspring, it is not the fault of the teachers, but a direct outcome of the implicit values of our society — a perception that might be right, and that you are what you drive: rather than what drives you.

A Labour Government will need to reverse the damage done. But in the meantime, should each sacrificial child of a Labour politician be sent to a Hackney Downs? From my own experience of a comprehensive school in the then communist Poland, from which 95 per cent of my classmates went to university, I know that comprehensives can deliver and I believe in the principle of comprehensive education. But what Poland had then, unlike Britain now, was a social consensus in a practically classless and homogeneous society that education is a "good thing". Education had genuine currency in a society without a welfare safety net, but with 100 per cent employment. Also, education had a great snob value. Peasant or

tram driver, every parent would aspire to their offspring getting up the social ladder.

Snobbery certainly beats greed — the tune we dance to in Britain. It is a great motivator. It inspires us to become educated and cultured — the dreaded middle-class concepts.

I have spent years savouring the irony that, while in a so-called communist country the Holy Grail was for all to aspire to share in the achievements of the formerly privileged middle-classes, in a Western capitalist society the acquisition of academic trappings is ostensibly shameful.

This stance is hypocritical, and politically and economically suicidal. Furthermore, to reject academic selection as unfair is to imply that the alternatives have to be inferior. British prejudice is at play here. All polytechnics must be renamed universities; a move supposedly to improve their status, but merely serving to erode the meaning of words. We need to develop a system of prestigious technical colleges and appreciate the type of varied vocational education they will provide.

Meritocracy for all must be the watchword for the 21st century. But this does not exclude the possibility of an educational fast track for those fit and willing. St Olave's is not a fee-paying school. Entry is by examination only, regardless of class, race, wealth or status. Having become the laughing stock of the developed countries because of our sub-literacy and innumerate youth, we could do with a few intellectual fast bowlers.

Poland is one of those countries where people talk in jokes when they mean serious business (a cunning self-censorship device, acquired under communism, but useful in any totalitarian regime).

There is a Polish joke which goes: a trainee devil is shown round Hell by a senior supervisor. They pass through various sections. In each, the devil on duty busily prods and pokes the mass of writhing bodies in each sizzling cauldron to stop any from climbing out. They happen upon a cauldron with no devil present. "Why is there no one on duty?" asks the young devil. "No need," comes the reply. "This is the Polish section. When anyone climbs anywhere near the top, the rest will soon pull him down again."

The British section does not need a devil either.

ANDA MACBRIDE



The seal of St Olave's

When Jessica joined the workers

Jonathan Sale describes how his daughter took up a work placement — and learnt an adult lesson

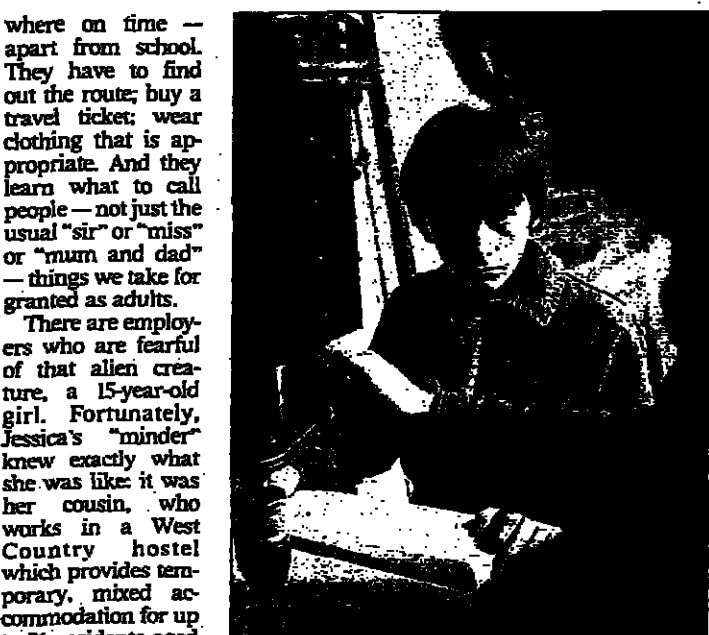
My 15-year-old daughter stopped going to school and went off instead to a hostel for the homeless. One of her contemporaries, also in the throes of the GCSE course, spent a fortnight in the local police station and others ended up in hospital.

Is this something for Jessica's school to be proud of? Yes. It takes work experience very seriously. Everyone does these days: one lad with a placement at Bradford Royal Infirmary was allowed not only to watch an operation but to help to look after patients.

Sydenham School, the south London comprehensive where Jessica is studying for her GCSEs, has had several recent placements at hospitals but none quite as hands-on as that. Several years ago, when one of the pupils fainted while watching an operation, she asked groggily, "Where am I?" on coming round. "Intensive care," they said.

Placements enjoyed by the latest batch of 240 pupils from Sydenham were at estate agents, lawyers, hotels, magazines, trendy shops and the Man in the Moon Theatre. "We try not to have too many hand-dressers," says Gill Pooley, who, in matching her pupils to places, encourages them not to be limited by the stereotypes of gender: girls should not feel that a no-entry sign comes between them and car mechanics.

"They're definitely mature," Ms Pooley says. "Many students with all sorts of difficulties at school shine at work placements." A lot speak of the experience of getting some-



Experience for a would-be engineer

where on time — apart from school. They have to find out the route; buy a travel ticket; wear clothing that is appropriate. And they learn what to call people — not just the usual "sir" or "miss" or "mum and dad" — things we take for granted as adults.

There are employers who are fearful of that alien creature, a 15-year-old girl. Fortunately, Jessica's "minder" knew exactly what she was like: it was her cousin, who works in a West Country hostel which provides temporary, mixed accommodation for up to 36 residents aged 16 and upwards.

Most were young men in their twenties who acted as if they had never seen a young female before. Jessica realised that any minor irritations she felt were nothing compared with what some of the residents were up against: one lad had returned from abroad to discover he had lost his home and possessions. Next day she laughed off the double entendres, which promptly dried up.

Working with homeless people certainly removes any prejudice: they are not lesser mortals than the rest of us but

often people to whom life has dealt a bad hand. Several had suffered family splits. One, a disturbed woman, was "sectioned", that is, compulsorily taken into care.

Some were in trouble with the law. One of Jessica's strongest memories of the fortnight was of how she pointed out to one lad that petty crime was giving him only grief. "He said: 'Do you think I should, like, stop?' For two seconds he thought about it. He saw me not as a 15-year-old but as a supervisor."

This is what Yaa's first day

She had to act in some ways like a member of staff but could always turn to her cousin or another of the employees. She was able to give practical help, such as booking a dentist's appointment for one of the older residents. Other work involved doing the laundry or playing cards with residents.

Perhaps her greatest satisfaction — it makes me look at my youngest child in a new light — lay in having a certain amount of authority. To those residents that she knew best, she could say: "Put that cigarette butt in the ashtray" and they did.

Her friend, Yaa Kudom, had a rather different placement. In her project diary, Yaa wrote that the organisation where she had her work experience "provides an important service to people living in the country". That is a generous opinion of the House of Commons but then the House of Commons had a generous opinion of her. "She is quietly confident, articulate and clearly has high aspirations," said the office supervisor of the Labour MP Diane Abbott.

involved: "1. Attended a meeting in Hackney Town Hall about disabilities. 2. Attended a park in Hackney where Diane opened a festival for old people. 3. Sat through Question Time at the House of Commons. 4. Attended two meetings with Diane." In addition, the energetic Ms Abbott had time to quiz her about her ambition to go into law or business. No wonder Yaa's entry reads: "It was a very, very tiring day. I didn't get home until 9pm."

Her second day included: photocopying Treasury and Civil Service Committee; watching two television interviews; a Home Office meeting about prostitution in Hackney. In two days she had already had more encounters with parliamentary activity than most voters will have in a lifetime.

Another Sydenham pupil was in the Commons at the same time, in this case with George Bruce, MP for Walsall South, for whom she wrote a press release and answered letters from children in his constituency. She was impressed by the polite way in which MPs insulated each other.

From her fortnight in the hostel, Jessica discovered that she would enjoy a career in that area. Conversely, Ms Pooley says: "There are some students who have always thought that they wanted to work with children; but then they go to a nursery school and think, 'not for me!' And that sort of learning experience is worth two weeks of anyone's time."

Books to help with tests

YESTERDAY'S disappointing results from the first national tests at 11 will increase the pressure on parents and schools to prepare children more effectively this year.

Three books published last week and sponsored by The Times should aid that process. As well as providing a revision guide for the tests in May, the paperbacks will enable parents to make their own assessment of their children's progress in the three core subjects.

Produced by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the body responsible for the tests, the separate books on English, mathematics and science offer advice on revision and examination techniques, as well as sample questions at all levels of difficulty. Unlike rival publications, they contain actual questions from last year's tests.

The three books, which are published by HMSO, will form the basis of a series of articles on this year's tests at ages seven, 11 and 14. The series will appear in The Times in March.

Some changes will be introduced in this year's tests for 11-year-olds, including the banning of calculators in one mathematics paper.

However, the general appearance of the tests and the ground to be covered will alter little. Schools will be notified of the precise differences.

● The Parents' Guide to National Tests, published by HMSO, cost £4.95 a subject.

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To request Harvard Summer School publications, call 617-495-0519, send e-mail to summer@husso.harvard.edu (give code #183), or return coupon below. Catalogues mailed after March 1. Catalogue available on the Internet at <http://www.harvard.edu> after February 15. Information: 617-495-4024.

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POSTS



Leighton Park School

The Governors of Leighton Park School invite applications for the post of

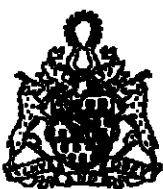
HEAD

which will fall vacant in September 1996 on the retirement of John Chapman MA MSc after 10 years' service.

Leighton Park is an independent co-educational school for 380 pupils aged 11-18, of whom about 60% are boarders. It is represented on the GBA and the present Head is a member of HMC. The School was founded by the Religious Society of Friends, who are still actively involved in its governance, and applicants should be in sympathy with Quaker concerns and values.

Further details of the post and of the School may be obtained from David Whitaker FCA, Clerk to the Governors, Leighton Park School, Reading RG2 7DH (Tel: 01734 871370, Fax: 01734 866959) and applications should be received by 16 February 1996.

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THE HABERDASHERS' ASKE'S SCHOOL ELSTREE, HERTS

Appointment of

BURSAR

The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar to succeed the present Bursar who retires at the end of August 1996.

Full details may be obtained from:

The Clerk to the Governors
The Haberdashers' Company
Haberdashers' Hall
Staining Lane
London
EC2V 7DD

marking the envelope "Elstree Bursar"

Closing date for applications - 14th February 1996

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EDUCATION

THE TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

MBA Courses Feature
The Sunday Times - 28th January 1996

MBA Courses Supplement
The Times - Monday 29th January 1996

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The DfEE is seeking National Project Directors - one for Literacy and one for Numeracy - to lead and co-ordinate the two national networks of LEA-based centres recently announced by the Secretary of State. The centres will work to a national brief to set and achieve targets for improving standards of attainment and the quality of teaching in local primary schools.

The project brief will be based on evidence from OFSTED, TTA, SCAA and BSA about effective teaching of literacy and numeracy. Over 5 years, we expect each network to involve 10 LEAs and cover around 1 in 20 primary schools nationally.

The National Project Directors for Literacy and for Numeracy will work with national and local partners and sponsors to develop the project and linked training materials, to oversee the work of the LEA centres, to contribute to monitoring and evaluation and to ensure wide dissemination of the results of this important initiative.

Applications are invited for the following posts:

NATIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR FOR LITERACY
NATIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR FOR NUMERACY

Closing date: 16 February Selection day: early March
Further details and application forms from:

Katie Driver, Literacy & Numeracy Project Team,
Room 6.28, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith St,
London SW1P 3BT Tel: 0171 825 5891



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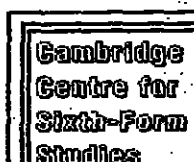
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McCoy chases National glory on Deep Bramble

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

TONY MCCOY had not ridden in a British steeplechase two years ago but, after the riding season of the season had extended his lead at the top of the jockeys' championship with an 11-1 double at Wincanton yesterday, he spoke of his hopes of winning the world's most famous race over fences — the Grand National.

The fresh-faced Irishman confirmed he will ride Deep Bramble in the Aintree spectacular and said: "You could not have a horse with better credentials for the National. He has a touch of class, jumps and stays, which is ideal."

"I schooled him for the first time last Wednesday, and he was brilliant. He has been trained specifically for the race and Paul Nicholls is very good at laying one out for a big race."

Indeed, Deep Bramble was strongly fancied for last year's Grand National and had been installed as one of the favourites when the weights were published, only to miss the race because of injury.

The nine-year-old had

shown the perfect aptitude for the gruelling 4½-mile test by winning two competitive staying races at Sandown, including the Agfa Diamond Chase, in which he beat Royal Athlete, the subsequent National winner, out of sight.

Nicholls, who saddled his first winners of 1996 when Sunley Bay and Lansdowne won at the Somerset track.

"He jumps very carefully and stays well. Horses like Royal Athlete and Dubacilla finished behind him at Sandown. He has not got enough class to win a Cheltenham Gold Cup but is the right sort for Aintree. I only wish him right twice last year so there could be further improvement to come."

McCoy, whose first ride in the National ended last year when Chatham fell at the twelfth, takes some biding out of the saddle as he demonstrated when surviving an appalling blunder by Samlee before going on to win the Maurice Lister Maiden Chase. The victory provided trainer Philip Hobbs with his 50th winner of the season.

The trainer added: "When he came to us last season from Ireland he seemed a bit shouderly and jarred up, but this year he seems a different horse. I see him as a real National horse and he'll have two runs before Aintree, ideally at Chepstow in the Coral National Trial and then at Haydock in the Greenall Grand National Trial."

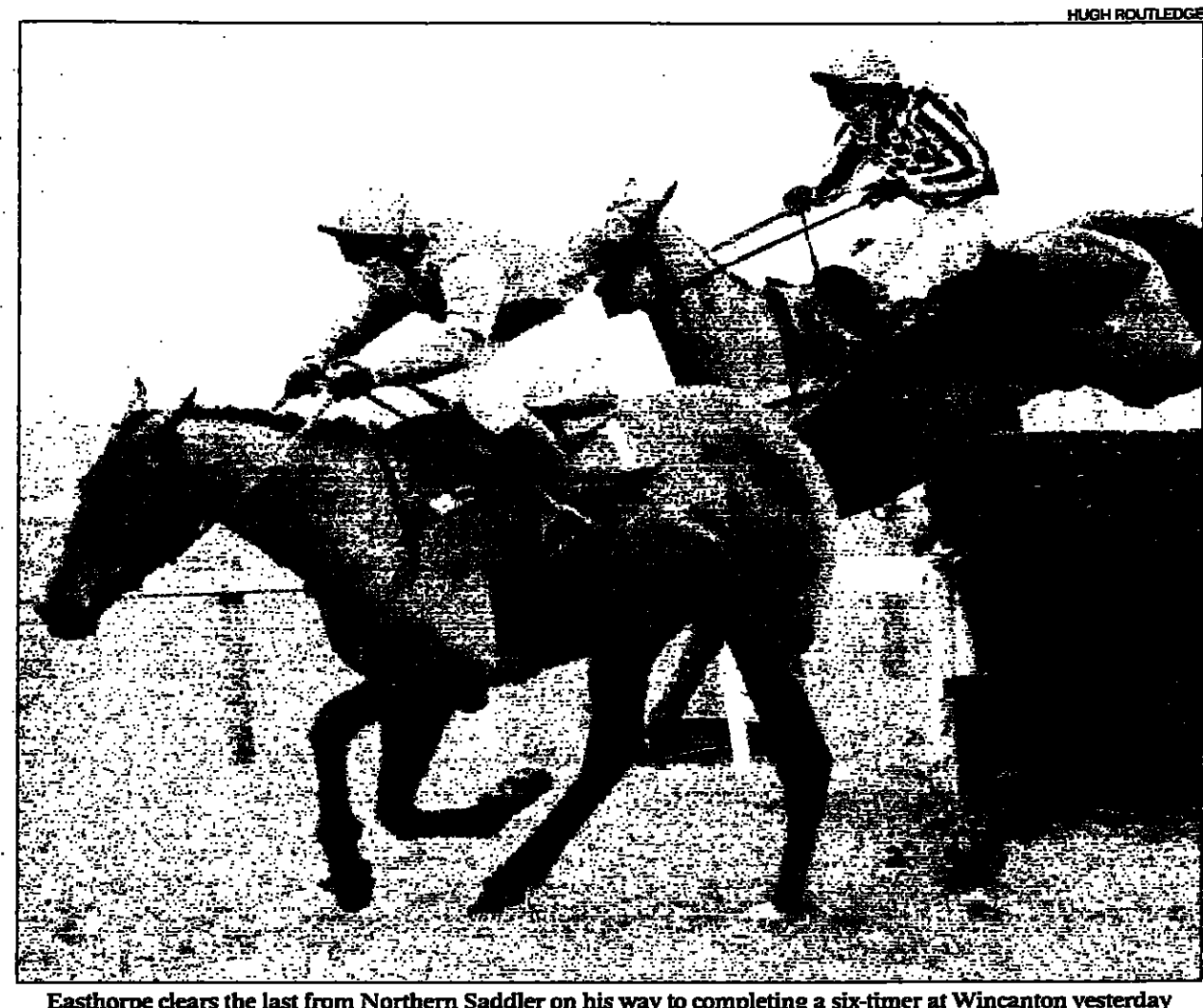
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Henrietta Knight has never had her horses in better form and Easthorpe continued her cracking run when taking the £10,000-added Terence Brady & Charlotte Bingham Handicap Chase. The eight-year-old was completing a six-timer this season in the afternoon's feature race and always had too much speed for Northern Saddle and Mister Oddy.

Given the relative shortage of two-mile chasers, it was no surprise to hear connections confirm the three will meet again in the Grand Annual Chase at the Cheltenham Festival.

"Easthorpe never stops surprising me. He would pull himself up if you didn't keep reminding him," Knight said. "He prefers going left-handed and needed today's race because he's so lazy at home." Kim Bailey confirmed yesterday that Master Oats, his 1995 Gold Cup winner, will run in the Hermessy Gold Cup at Leopardstown on Sunday week. Bailey said: "He's in good form at the moment and either Charlie Swan or Jamie Osborne will take the ride."



Easthorpe clears the last from Northern Saddle on his way to completing a six-timer at Wincanton yesterday

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Wincanton
Going good to soft.
1.30 (m) 1. ZINGIBAR (A.P. McCoy, 5-2) beat 2. HENDON (D. Bester, 10-1), 3. MAGICAL (B. Farnham, 4-1) and 4. ALSO RAN: 5. TOUTE (B. Farnham, 4-1), 6. DANCING (B. Farnham, 4-1), 7. ANNA BERNARD (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 8. HAZEL (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 9. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 10. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 11. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 12. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 13. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 14. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 15. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 16. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 17. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 18. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 19. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 20. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 21. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 22. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 23. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 24. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 25. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 26. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 27. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 28. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 29. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 30. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 31. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 32. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 33. BUCKLE (A.P. McCoy, 5-2), 34. 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Giles makes point to put Britain on brink

Holland 2
Great Britain 2

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN
IN BARCELONA

GREAT Britain took an important step towards the Olympic Games hockey tournament in Atlanta next summer when Calum Giles converted a short corner to level the scores two minutes before the end of an exciting game against Holland here yesterday. Britain now need one point from their two remaining matches, against Malaysia tomorrow and Belgium on Sunday, to clinch a place among the qualifying five for the United States.

The 2-2 draw denied the Dutch victory and prevented them from confirming their

Mayer continued to torment the opposing defence.

Holland went ahead in the 23rd minute, against the run of play, as Van den Horst scored from a scramble after Veen, on the right wing, had put a centre across the circle. However, Britain went back on the offensive and earned another short corner, the result of a foot infringement by the Dutch inside the circle. Giles swept the ball along the ground, forcing Jensen to make a diving save.

In the dying minutes of the first half, Holland conceded another short corner for obstructing Nick Thompson at the top of the circle. Persistent breaking of the line before the initial hit was taken saw Brinkman and Van Renswijk, two Holland defenders, temporarily suspended.

This meant that Holland were down to nine men at the start of the second half and Britain took immediate advantage. Jensen saved a shot from Laslett but, as the ball drifted out of the circle, Hazlett was on hand to set up Mayer, who dashed in to score.

Holland rallied and forced a short corner in the 46th minute, from which Van den Horst scored his second goal with a high scoop into the net. A succession of short corners then followed at both ends.

Holland missed their best chance of the game from one of these, when Van den Horst scooped over the top. It was a mistake for which they were made to pay as Giles, a substitute, denied them victory in the last minutes.

Earlier yesterday, India and Spain qualified for Atlanta with wins over Canada and Malaysia respectively.

GREAT BRITAIN: D. Lukes (East Grinstead), J. Whelan (Reading), Soma Singh (Southampton), G. Fordham (Hounslow), K. Taylor (Canterbury), S. Hazlett (Barnet), C. Taylor (Canterbury), J. Shaw (Southampton), J. Thompson (Hounslow), J. Laslett (Reading), captain, N. Thompson (Hounslow), J. Hazlett (Barnet), J. van der Wal, M. Grant, J. Daines, J. Brinkman, M. Daineson (captain), W. van Pelt, S. Veen, T. van den Horst, R. van Wijk. Substitutes used: S. van Renswijk, T. van der Meer, Umpires: S. Deo (Spain) and R. St. Rose (Netherlands and Tonga)

TABLE

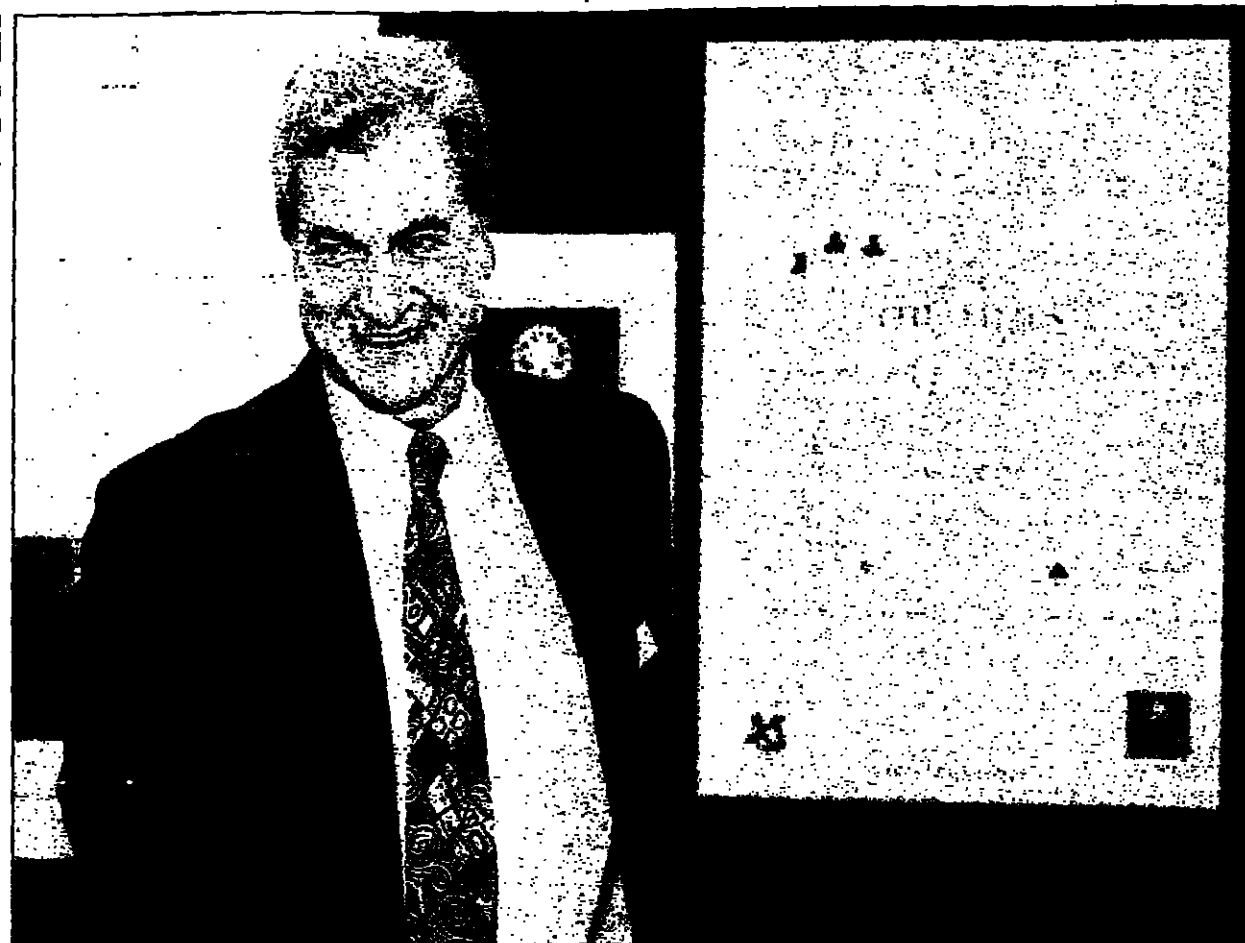
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	5	3	2	0	11	5	8
Holland	5	3	1	1	21	12	7
Great Britain	5	1	4	0	12	8	6
Malaysia	5	3	0	2	7	8	6
Canada	5	1	1	3	6	12	3
Belgium	5	1	0	4	10	19	2
Bolivia	5	0	0	5	3	14	0

Top five teams qualify for Olympics

place for Atlanta. Nobody could begrudge Britain their point. The forwards ran strongly and tackled more fiercely, allowing Holland little chance to develop their attacks.

Britain took only 30 seconds to pierce the Dutch defence and earn a short corner, which came to nothing because of some faulty stopping. A second short corner three minutes later was dissolved for the want of control, but the pressure served to undermine the Dutch.

Hazlett, at left half, broke up two of their attacking forays by intercepting passes from Van Wijk. The Holland goal was under siege again soon afterwards, when Shaw's pass put Mayer through. Jensen, the Holland goalkeeper, came charging out to deny him, but



David Price, the former British captain, organised the Challenge, the biggest bridge tournament in the UK

Times deals up a winning hand

By ROBERT WRIGHT

THE TIMES today launches the biggest bridge tournament to be staged in the United Kingdom. It is open to every player in the land, whatever their standard of play, and offers them the chance to be a national champion.

The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge will appeal to social players and seasoned experts alike. At stake is a prize-fund of £21,000 and part of the proceeds from the Challenge will be donated to the National Trust. Peter Stothard, editor of The Times, said: "The Times has always been popular with readers. We are delighted to be associated with this unique event in bridge and to help the National Trust with its conservation programme."

Of an estimated two million players in Britain, 100,000 play competitive bridge, with a core of 5,000 regular participants. One of the primary aims of the Challenge is to dispel the elitist image which surrounds competitive bridge, while providing worthwhile rewards for the game's more hardened players.

Organised by the former British captain, David Price, of Chicago Bridge Promotions, and licensed by the English Bridge Union, the tournament will be split into four categories — expert, men, ladies and mixed.

Pairs can enter either through their bridge clubs, bridge sections of other clubs (golf, tennis etc) or by forming a group of their regular social players. There is an entry fee of £6 per person, 20 per cent of which will be donated to the National Trust. The Trust will also receive any surplus profits from the competition.

Pairs will play duplicate bridge, based on aggregate scoring, with only simple, natural bidding allowed. Heats will be held between February 1 and July 15, with the winners qualifying for locally-organised area finals. Winners of the expert category will receive £5,000, plus individual trophies, while winners



one of the regional finals, some of which will be hosted by Jarvis Hotels, during October, with 20 pairs in each category going on to the national final.

The 160 finalists will compete over the weekend of November 23-24 at Clondra Park, a National Trust property near Guildford, Surrey. Winners of the expert category will receive £5,000, plus individual trophies, while winners

of the three non-expert sections will win £2,000 plus trophies, with prize-money down to fourth place.

Simon Donohue, managing director of Midland Private Banking, is confident that the competition will find a niche. "We have a long history of supporting the National Trust, and I am sure that the partnership of The Times, ourselves and the National Trust will make the Challenge a regular feature of the bridge-playing calendar for years to come," he said.

Registration for the competition can be made by contacting the tournament office on 0181 942 9506 and by writing to The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, Chicago Bridge Promotions, Britannic Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH, by fax to 0181 942 9509 or through a club, where details will be displayed.

Dr Wardle, a spokeswoman for the National Trust, said: "We are grateful to The Times and Midland Private Banking for choosing the National Trust to benefit from this event, which will have huge appeal to our members."

Leading article, page 17

Smith and Charles seek chance to star at Olympics

FROM EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT
IN MIAMI

LAWRIE Smith and Glyn Charles, the leading contenders in the Star class for the Great Britain Olympic team, joined battle here yesterday in an incident-filled opening race on Biscayne Bay.

In the first of eight qualifying heats at the pre-Olympic regatta, both made poor starts in breezy conditions that saw the Spanish former Finn gold medal-winner, Jose Luis Doreste, leading the 49-strong fleet at the weather mark.

Smith and Charles took some time to establish clear air at the crowded pin end of the starting line and emerged at the weather mark well down the fleet but hot on each other's heels.

Charles, who has lost out to Smith twice at trials in the Soling class in the past two Olympic selection campaigns, is determined to reverse that form this time round. There is little love lost between the two and yesterday he reached the weather mark one boat length in front of Smith, who was then forced to take a penalty after touching the mark with his mainsail as he went round.

Ahead of them, in twelfth place, the outsiders, Michael and Patrick Hicks, were putting up a confident performance, the stronger pairings of Stuart Hudson and David Munge and David Howlett and Phil Lawrence were 28th and 29th respectively.

Smith eventually finished twelfth and Charles 27th, and over the next three days the five trials will have a chance to show their paces against many of the leading Star sailors in the world, including a strong American team led by John Kostick and Joe Londrigan.

During an earlier race over the same course Andy Beadsworth — Britain's medal hope in the Soling class — also started poorly, getting caught in the middle of a large fleet.

At the gybe mark Beadsworth, who has already been selected for the Olympic squad, was languishing in 28th place in the field of 43, which was led by the Dane, Stig Westergaard.

Boon puts Australia on secure footing

DAVID BOON played a familiar rescue role in his final appearance for Australia, enabling the Waugh brothers, Mark and Steve, to launch a late assault on the Sri Lanka bowling on the first day of the third and final Test in Adelaide yesterday.

Boon, who will retire from international cricket at the end of the match, steadied the innings with a typically resolute 43 after Michael Slater was dismissed in the first over of the day.

Mark Waugh made 71 and his brother remained unbeaten on 70 as Australia reached 239 for five at the close, having won the toss.

Higgins sorry

Snooker: Not for the first time in his controversial career, Alex Higgins has seen fit to apologise for his actions (Phil Yates writes). Yesterday, the former world champion issued a statement admitting that remarks made over the past two weeks to referees Lawrie Annandale and Alan Chamberlain were "inappropriate".

Higgins was reported to the sports governing body, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, by Annandale on Tuesday after his 10-7 defeat by Surinder Gill in the eighth qualifying round of the Embassy world championship.

Germans defend

Hockey: Germany are the favourites for the eight-team women's indoor championship that begins in Glasgow today. The challenge for England is to get to the final and to be the first team to put the champions under genuine pressure.

Shark encounter

Basketball: Crystal Palace, the unbeaten first division leaders who have knocked two Budweiser League teams out of the National Cup, have been drawn against the holders, Sheffield Sharks, in the semi-finals.

SEMI-FINALS: Crystal Palace v Sheffield (Sat Feb 8, 2nd leg Feb 14); Birmingham Bulls v London Towers (Sat Feb 11, 2nd leg Feb 14).

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Coleman's improvement

After a sensational win as Black in the Wimpster Variation of the French Defence by Ivanchuk against Kasparov last year, this line has come back into fashion. Black's strategy is characterised by withholding the standard liberating advance ... c5 and manoeuvring with his pieces behind a closed pawn chain.

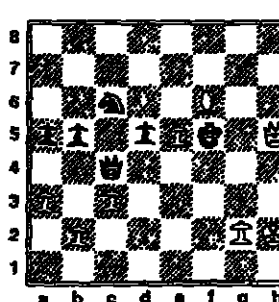
Learning from Kasparov's unfortunate experience, the Essex player, David Coleman, inflicted a convincing defeat when Black repeated Ivanchuk's play in this game from the Gausdal tournament. Coleman built up a powerful attack and eventually forced the Black king into the open for inevitable execution.

White: Coleman
Black: Tjomsland
Gausdal, January 1996

French Defence

- 1 e4 e6
- 2 d4 d5
- 3 Nc3 Bb4
- 4 e5 b6
- 5 a3 B8
- 6 Bb5+ a6
- 7 Ba4 a5
- 8 Nce2 Ne7
- 9 c3 Bd7
- 10 Nf3 c5
- 11 Bc2 Nc6
- 12 d5 b5
- 13 dxc5 Bxc5
- 14 Nc4 Nc4
- 15 Nxd4 Bxd4
- 16 Qxd4 f5
- 17 edf Qd6
- 18 Qd3 g6
- 19 Bh6 Nc5

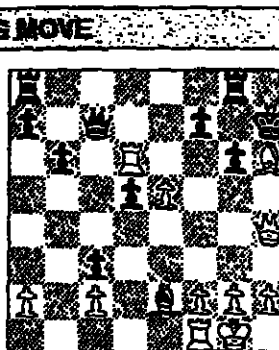
Diagram of final position



Times chess book

Improve your game with Ray Keene's book. The Times Winning Chess, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders to 01376 327401).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is a variation of the game Duras - Olland, Carlsbad 1907. A discovered check can be a very powerful weapon as it creates the possibility to move a piece to a square where, temporarily at least, it will be invulnerable. How did White make the most of such a chance here?

Solution on page 38

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This Refresher demonstrates a simple piece of logic. It cropped up in the match between South Africa and China in the 1995 Marlboro Venice Cup (the women's world championship).

Dealer West	North-South	Game IMPs									
	♠ Q 10 6 ♥ 10 7 3 ♦ 7 4 ♣ K J 10 4 2										
♠ K 8 7 4 ♥ A K 9 8 4 ♦ — ♣ Q 8 7 6	<table><tr><td>♠</td><td>M</td><td>♠</td></tr><tr><td>♥</td><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>♦</td><td>S</td><td>♦</td></tr></table> ♠ A J ♥ 7 2 ♦ A K J 10 9 8 2 ♣ A 9 3	♠	M	♠	♥	W	E	♦	S	♦	♠ 9 5 3 2 ♥ Q J 8 5 ♦ Q 8 5 3 ♣ 4 5
♠	M	♠									
♥	W	E									
♦	S	♦									
W	N	E	S								
1 H	Pass	2 H	Pass								
4 H	Pass	3 H	5 D								
All Pass											

Contract: Five Diamonds by South. Lead: ace of hearts

Contract: Five Diamonds by South. Lead: ace of hearts

I presume South's Three Heart bid over East's Two Hearts was asking her partner to bid 3NT if she held a heart stopper. That is a common method in tournament bridge.

After cashing the ace of hearts at trick one, West continued hearts. The Chinese declarer (Zhang) ruffed, cashed two top trumps and gave up a trump to East's queen. What should declarer do when East (Petra Mansell) returns a spade?

The trap is to finesse. But if you think it through, you'll see that is wrong. Say the spade finesse wins - South still has to find the queen of clubs to make her contract. But if West has the queen of clubs, declarer has enough tricks without taking the spade finesse.

Zhang was up to it - she rose with the ace of spades. Now after drawing East's last trump she cashed the ace of clubs and ran the nine for her

contract. That was the right way to play the clubs: a) as West was short in diamonds she was more likely to be long in clubs; b) with four tricks needed in the suit it was not possible to play East for the guarded queen of clubs.

The MacAllan International Pairs Championships continued yesterday at the White House Hotel, Albany Street, NW1. After eight rounds of play the positions were: 1 Forrester and Robson (GB) 33(VPs); 2 Auker and von Arnim (Germany) 32; 3 Rodwell and Meckstroth (USA) 32(VPs); 4 Forquet and Sementa (Italy) 30; 5 Lauria and Versace (Italy) 29; 6 Gielman and Mittleman (Canada) 26.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

RORKE'S DRIFT
a. An Irish argument
b. A station
c. A private army

BROWN BESS
a. A musket
b. A highwayman's horse
c. A camp-follower

CHEVACHEE
a. A cavalry charge
b. Devastation
c. Remounts

TRUNG & WING
a. Aiming and firing
b. Manors
c. Raid and vanish

Answers on page 38

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committed to providing a service tailored to your individual needs. They are at liberty to advise you on any product available on the market and because we recognise the importance of independent advice, they are paid a salary, rather than commission. In fact, their performance is judged on one criterion only: the satisfaction of their clients. To arrange a meeting with your local Private Banking manager, call 0800 180180.

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سكز امت الاصل

Aikman, the quarterback Steelers are out to stop

brief appearance in *A Country Practice*, another humdrum antipodean series inflicted on the British. "I played a sportsman who'd got injured and couldn't play again," he said. "We all have our dreams of Hollywood, don't we?"

Free spirits can be caged for only so long and he is still waiting for the ultimate offer which would perhaps finally quench his thirst for continental drift. "If someone were to give me the same amount of money I earn playing football to go and surf and live on the island of Bali for four years," he said, "I'd pack up and go tomorrow."

There was a hazardous moment towards the end when they nearly lost contact, before outstretched hands finally came together. They would have hoped for better marks than they received — all but

work are about to go out Farnborough Town, scheduled to visit Bower Fold tomorrow, lost two sets of centre halves through injury in their Trophy matches against Slough Town, Keith Day and Dean Coney, on the field for just two minutes as substitute after returning from injury, were ruled out after the 1-1 draw that Slough salvaged with a 94th-minute goal by Mark West on Saturday. Richard Williams and John Underwood, their young replacements, were hurt in the replay at Wexham Park on Tuesday as Farnborough lost 4-3.

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Pairing
AUSTRIA				
Kitzbühel	5	70	fair	
			(Newly groomed pair)	
Oberurgl	3	60	fair	
			(Runs becoming worn in)	
Seisbach	20	50	fair	
			(Upper runs enjoyed)	
FRANCE				

Les Arcs	33	165	fair	(Excellent sking on m
Avoriaz	80	120	good	(Good sking still availa
				(Some new snow, van
SWITZERLAND				
Arosa	30	50	fair	(Pistes softer wit
C Moriana	0	110	worm	(Glacier) good
Gindelwald	0	30	fair	(Plains with snow making g

Source: Ski Club of Great Br

	Depth		
	L	U	Paleo
AUSTRIA			
Kitzbühel	5	70	(Newly groomed pistes)
Oburgarl	30	80	(Runs becoming worn in places)
Sasibach	20	50	(Upper runs enjoyed)
FRANCE			
Alpe d'Huez	70	220	(Excellent skiing on all runs)
Les Arcs	33	165	(Good skiing still available)
Avoriaz	80	120	(Some new snow, value)
SWITZERLAND			
Arosa	30	50	(Pistes softer with snow)
C Montana	0	110	(Glacier go)
Gmündwadi	0	30	(Runs with snow making go)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain

Critics fear Yeltsin's choice of 'dinosaur' to run financial policy may turn back the clocks

Kremlin puts industrialist at helm of ailing economy

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday appointed a controversial industrialist to head Russia's economic policy, prompting renewed fears about the Kremlin's commitment to reforming the economy.

Vladimir Kadannikov, 54, who headed Russia's largest car producer, was appointed Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the economy to replace Anatoli Chubais, the pro-Western reformer who masterminded the country's privatisation programme.

The move, although predicted, was greeted with widespread disappointment in the business community and could delay, or even derail, a \$9 billion (£6 billion) IMF loan due to be finalised by the end of this month.

"This week Yeltsin made a point of telling Western investors how committed he was to reform," said one banker. "Then he goes and appoints this dinosaur to run the economy. What does he expect us to think?"

The threat of a U-turn in Russian economic policy, away from reform and back towards protectionism and government subsidies, was already signalled by Oleg Soskovets, the First Deputy Prime Minister, who on Wednesday stated that Western-

style economic practices did not suit Russia.

The Kremlin's apparent change of policy seems aimed at wooing disaffected voters away from the Communists, who came out ahead in last month's parliamentary polls, and back to President Yeltsin, in time for his re-election bid in June.

However, the tactic of subsidising loss-making industries, increasing pensions and freezing reforms could backfire badly if inflation rises and the stabilised rouble begins once again to lose its value.

Anticipating criticism from Russian liberals and a pos-

sible backlash in the markets, President Yeltsin moved quickly to ease fears, by reconfirming that he regarded economic reform as "the most important thing" in his political life.

"I do not intend to betray it," he said in a speech to students last night. He also made a bold pledge on timely payments. "Beginning on March 1, I am taking under my personal control the timely payment of wages, students' stipends and pensions," he told the audience.

However, his reassurances on economic reform failed to make much impact with Western investors in Russia who regarded Mr Chubais as a guarantor of reform and who view Mr Kadannikov as an old-style Soviet factory boss more interested in subsidising and protecting Russian industry than modernising it.

"Reforms must be systematically adjusted to life," he said, hinting at a slowdown or halt to the privatisation process. "We cannot talk about the successful completion of reform without lifting the domestic branches of industry."

Russian commentators have been widely critical of Mr Kadannikov, not least because of the terrible state of AvtoVAZ, the giant carmaker he used to run. Although the

Volga-based company still produces vehicles and manages to pay its 100,000-man workforce, unlike many other Russian industries, it has failed to adapt to modern market realities. It is heavily in debt, dangerously influenced by the mafia and its cars are widely regarded as unreliable, outdated and overpriced.

"Look what is happening to VAZ and you will understand what will happen to Russia," said Andrei Ilyarov, an economist.

In spite of his poor managerial skills, Mr Kadannikov has proved a skilful player in Moscow, where he has maintained close links with powerful figures in the Kremlin, including President Yeltsin, who considered him for Prime Minister in 1992.

As the Russian leader has steadily purged his Government of reform-minded liberals, so the opportunity arose for Mr Kadannikov to return to mainstream politics.

According to some Russian press reports, he was supported for his new job by General Aleksandr Korzhakov, the shadowy and powerful presidential bodyguard, and Mr Soskovets, the anti-reformist who has pledged to restore Russian industry by state intervention.

Parliamentarians from East and West rejected pleas by opponents to keep Russia waiting with the other three

applicant countries — Croatia, Bosnia and Belorussia — and voted by 164 to 35 to admit the Russians immediately. There were 15 abstentions. The motion had to be carried by a two-thirds majority.

The Council is seen as the yardstick and guarantor of democratic freedoms and human rights throughout Europe.

Conservative and centre-right parliamentarians, as well as speakers from the Baltic states, denounced Russia's actions in Chechnya and the lawlessness of Russian society. Socialists and Liberals from East and West gave a warning that keeping Russia waiting would hinder democratic and market reforms and only encourage the Communists and nationalists.

That prediction was given extraordinary emphasis by a furious denunciation from Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader of the Liberal Democratic Party. He called Russia a haven of freedom and democracy while insisting that the West was hell on earth. Paradoxically, however, he begged the Council members to vote against Russia, saying that this would bolster his contention that the West was Russia's enemy.

Shouting and red in the face, Mr Zhirinovskiy said Russia had protected Europe for more than a thousand years from Asian hordes and Turkish invaders; it had liberated the West from the German yoke in the Second World War; and it was now saving Europe from Chechen barbarians.

He said it was futile to criticise President Yeltsin for his military operation against the Chechens. Mr Yeltsin was in fact too soft-hearted, and Mr Zhirinovskiy predicted that after the presidential elections in June the Kremlin would take a far tougher stance.

Mr Zhirinovskiy, who

caused scandal in Strasbourg three years ago during a Council of Europe debate when he spat and threw clods of earth at Jews demonstrating against him, accused the West of hypocrisy in admitting countries such as Turkey, which bombed Kurdish villages, and Germany, which burnt Turks in hostels.

Vytautas Landsbergis, the nationalist leader and former President of Lithuania, accused Mr Yeltsin of being driven by the party of war. He gave a warning that Russia was eager to reconquer its former empire and said the Council would be held up to ridicule if it admitted such a member.

Western parliamentarians, however, said that democracy could be nurtured only if the country was given Western support. Sir Russell Johnston, for the Liberal Group, said that for a thousand years Russia had had no free press, free elections or independent judiciary. Now it had them, albeit imperfectly.

Mr Yeltsin made clear earlier this week the overriding importance Moscow saw in admission. His opponents, however, said that keeping Russia waiting was the best way of ensuring it undertook human rights and democratic reforms. Chechnya showed that Russia was not ready for membership.

Vladimir Lukin, the leader of the Russian delegation, warned the Council not to play Pontius Pilate and wash its hands of responsibility.



Gemadi Zyuganov, the Russian Communist Party leader, enters the assembly room in Strasbourg

Council of Europe admits Russia

FROM MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN STRASBOURG

AFTER a day of heated debate over the state of democracy and Russia's intervention in Chechnya, the Council of Europe yesterday voted overwhelmingly to admit Russia as its 39th member.

Parliamentarians from East and West rejected pleas by opponents to keep Russia waiting with the other three

applicant countries — Croatia, Bosnia and Belorussia — and voted by 164 to 35 to admit the Russians immediately. There were 15 abstentions. The motion had to be carried by a two-thirds majority.

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Mitterrand mistress 'was phone tap victim'

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE telephone of Anne Pingeot, François Mitterrand's mistress and the mother of his illegitimate daughter, Mazarine, was tapped in the early 1980s by police at the Elysée Palace, almost certainly with President Mitterrand's knowledge, according to a book published in France yesterday.

However, according to *The Ears of the President*, by Jean-Marie Pontaut and Jérôme Dupuis, both investigative journalists, Mitterrand's wife, Danielle, escaped surveillance. *The Ears of the President* is the latest in what promises to be a stream of books on the secretive President's political career and private life, following his death earlier this month.

Telephone-tapping has long been used in French politics, and it has been known for some time that the Elysée engaged in widespread, illegal spying during President Mitterrand's first seven years in office.

M Pontaut and M Dupuis say that between 1983 and 1986, the telephone lines of 2,000 people were tapped by the Elysée. Among the targets were 128 journalists, 30 lawyers, five magistrates, the Aga Khan, Martine Aubry, the former Socialist Minister, Carole Bouquet, an actress, a nightclub, and a cleaning company.

The authors also say that, when a radio station threatened to reveal details of the President's illegitimate daughter in 1982, two agents of the phone-tapping unit were sent to cut the wires of the station's transmitter.

A legal investigation into the phone tapping continues.

Charges over death unit stun Socialists

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE decision by the Spanish Supreme Court to charge José Barriónuevo, a close friend of Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, with the full extent of directing death squads has stunned the Socialist Party.

The party, which has been in power for more than 13 years, is trailing the conservative Popular Party in the run-up to general elections on March 3. The opposition expects to win the election as a result of the indictment.

The Socialists had assumed that, at worst, Señor Barriónuevo, 53, would only be charged as an accessory to a bungled kidnapping by the death squads in southwest France in 1983, when they mistook a French businessman for an ETA leader. The squads killed 27 ETA suspects during Señor Barriónuevo's term as Interior Minister from 1982 to 1988.

Yesterday Judge Eduardo Moner formally charged Señor Barriónuevo along with Rafael Vera, 50, the former director of state security. Both were freed on bail and their passports impounded.

Judge Moner said the death squads, known as GAL, were formed in 1983 by Julian Sarracino, then Governor of the Basque province of Vizcaya, and other senior officials. He said Gal had received "the consent" of Señor Barriónuevo and Señor Vera and they were integrated in Gal "as directors".

José María Aznar, 42, the conservative leader, said: "It is impossible to think that the Prime Minister did not know all this was going on." Señor Gonzalez reiterated yesterday that "I believe in his [Señor Barriónuevo's] innocence".

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Icy walk for Utah child killer to execution chamber

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN BLUFFDALE, UTAH

ON THE day scheduled to be John Albert Taylor's last, a foot of pristine snow landed on the roof of his execution chamber. Prison guards shovelled it to clear a path for his only relative, an uncle. Lawyers trudged through it to advocate a last-minute appeal. The prisoner sat all but oblivious to its death-watch cell, resolved to die by the loudest, bloodiest method an American court will sanction.

Six marksmen, each being paid \$200 (£198) to shoot a man at 200 yards yesterday at the Utah state prison in Bluffdale to await their role in the grimly theatrical business of execution by firing squad.

Shortly before midnight (7am GMT) they were to take up position behind horizontal slots in a storage hanger in the maximum security wing. An alternate would stand by in case one dropped out. Of the remaining five, four were given live rounds and the fifth a

blank so that none could be sure of firing a fatal bullet. Ballistics experts said the blank had been made to give a normal recoil.

Their target, harshly lit by five floodlights, was described by witnesses of Utah's last firing-squad execution as a "throne of death". Nineteen years ago Gary Gilmore was shot dead in the same bleak warehouse but strapped to a second-hand wooden chair.

Taylor's chair was purpose-built in the prison workshop. Backed by 4in of pine and a mound of sandbags under black plastic sheeting, it was mounted on a sloping metal pan designed to collect the prisoner's blood. Side-flaps were added to minimise the spraying of blood and tissue.

"He maintains his innocence but doesn't want to go on living on death row," Jack Ford, the prison spokesman, told an international throng of reporters. A representative of

the state attorney-general's office would be on hand in case Taylor requested an appeal even as he walked his final 30ft, Mr Ford said. Sedation had been refused.

Taylor's claim of innocence has been met with scorn by the parents of Charla King, the 11-year-old girl who was found raped, sodomised and strangled with a telephone wire in her home north of Salt Lake City seven years ago. Taylor's fingerprints were found on the telephone beside her body.

Charla's mother, Sherron, was due to attend the execution at 12.02. She attacked the notion that it was barbaric. "Tell me what's barbaric," she said. "My daughter was alive when he raped her. He won't even hear the bullets."

Indeed, Taylor will probably be dead before the sound of the rifle cracks catches up with the four 30-calibre rounds aimed at a white circle pinned over his heart.

He was due to be led in shackles from the death-watch cell to the execution chamber ten minutes before what Mr Ford insisted on calling the "midnight hour". Strapped down with Velcro, he would be invited by the prison warden to say his last words to the 18 witnesses behind one-way mirrors. After a paramedic had located his heart, Taylor was to be left alone, shielded only by a black hood.

Death penalty opponents held a thinly attended rally in driving snow in Salt Lake City on Wednesday night. They were due to meet Utah's Governor, Michael Leavitt, yesterday but held out little hope of intervention.

Taylor, 36, spent the day with an uncle, Gordon Lee, his only known relative, and a lawyer who has become his spiritual adviser, Christine Rogers, behind his conversion to Catholicism.

The countdown to his death has been grim. For 30 days, preparations have been conducted with the precision of a space launch. Even his last smoke was choreographed to take place on his walk through the snow. Smoking is banned in Utah's public buildings.



Pilot Baba emerges yesterday after four days in a hole. Rationalist critics who watched wore bullet-proof vests because of alleged death threats

Hindu holy man's underground feat strikes gold

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ROHINI, INDIA

PILOT BABA, a renowned Hindu holy man, crawled unsteadily out of the ground yesterday, four days after being "buried alive" in one of the most ancient feats of Indian mysticism. He took a deep breath of crisp winter air, supposedly his first in 96 hours, and acknowledged the cheers and substantial financial offerings of 10,000 devotees.

The art of not breathing, *bhuvanadhi*, can be performed in water or earth: the Baba has appeared to demonstrate both over the years. Close

up, however, his magic is rather less impressive. He was buried not in earth, but entombed in a hole 9ft deep and 9ft wide, with a *charpoy* (string bed) and blanket. The hole was covered with wooden poles, topped with corrugated-iron sheeting, a plastic cover and a couple of inches of soil, giving the impression he was buried.

Members of the Indian Rationalist Association, which debunks religious myths, watched with evident amusement as the crowd became frenzied to the chanting of long-haired *sadhus* (saints) dressed in saffron robes. The Baba, surrounded by priests, climbed on to a dais where he addressed the

multitude, telling them that his demonstration of spiritual and mental power was for the good of people the world over. He shared the dais with many boxes of apples, which he said he would imbue with some of his powers and distribute to the people.

The money rolled in; the Baba said he had remained under water for six days in 1992 and had sat in an airtight glass canister for two weeks. "I go into a trance. I appear to be dead," he said.

Sanal Edamaruku, the secretary-general of the Indian Rationalist Association, and several supporters wore bullet-proof vests beneath their shirts. He said he had received death

threats for trying to discredit the holy man. The Baba performed his feat in a public park in the small town of Rohini, on the edge of Delhi. Mr Edamaruku said the aim was to rally public support to take over the park for construction of a temple.

"All of this is to do with land-grabbing. Once he gains popular support, he can gain access to political power and eventually take the land," he said. All miracles performed by holy men were tricks. Appearing to be dead and stopping the pulse was a favourite. "All you do is squeeze a ball in your armpit and the pulse in your wrist will practically disappear."



A view of the execution chair, and the openings through which the chosen marksmen will fire

1979 killer hanged

Smyrna, Delaware: In the first hanging here in 50 years, Billy Bailey, a double murderer, was executed yesterday for killing Gilbert and Clara Lambertson, an elderly farmer and his wife, in 1979.

He became the third murderer hanged in America since the death penalty was reinstated by the Supreme Court in 1976. Bailey, 49, opted for hanging instead of lethal injection.

His lawyer, Edmund Lyons, said he "found the process medieval and barbaric".

He asked: "If we are proud of what we've done today... why [do] we do it at night?" About 100 anti-death penalty protesters held a vigil.

Saxton Lambertson, 68, one of the victims' two sons who witnessed the execution, said his parents "were very innocent people... they were old and small and he was a big brute. He chose to shoot them so he chose to die".

For his last meal Bailey chose steak, baked potatoes, rolls, butter, peas and vanilla ice cream. (Reuters)

North Korea famine makes troops 'hope for war'

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE THREAT of famine in North Korea is so great that soldiers, convinced they will soon die, hope a war will break out so they may be killed in battle instead, according to defectors.

The escapees also claim prison officials are strangling prisoners' new-born babies.

"If the current situation continues for several months, there will be a riot or a catastrophe [in North Korea]," said Staff Sergeant Choe Kwang Hyok, 25, a soldier who defected to South Korea last month. "North Korean soldiers hope war will break out," he told a Seoul news conference.

Lee Soon Ok, who also

defected last month with her son, 29, told the same news conference she saw some starving prisoners eating mud. She added: "When women prisoners gave birth to babies, prison officials strangled them to death in front of the mothers."

The remarks came as America, South Korea and Japan began a series of high-level

diplomatic meetings in Hawaii on North Korea. America indicated this week it was prepared to extend food aid, with Japan and South Korea, to the North, where 130,000 people reportedly face starvation. But South Korea reiterated yesterday that it would not provide aid unless Pyongyang dropped its hostile attitude to Seoul. The South Korean

Prime Minister, Lee Soo Sung, said the North should first seek rapprochement. Staff Sergeant Choe said he had gained 15kg (33lb) since defecting five weeks ago. His unit's staple food rations, mostly mixed corn and beans, were reduced from 800 to 650 grams (28oz to 23oz) a meal in September. Meat was handed out only 15 to 20 times a year.

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SIMON JENKINS ON THE QUEEN

"If I were the Queen, I would join the Catholic Church and apply for sainthood. Monarchs and saints have much in common..."

Simon Jenkins reviews Sarah Bradford's biography of Elizabeth II

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Chinese President stages dress rehearsal for a retreat from reforms after party warnings

Jiang acts to shut the door against 'pollution' by West

JIANG ZEMIN, the President of China, is tightening his personal power and moving his country away from reform — and he is wearing the clothes to prove it.

During the past week Mr Jiang has made his leftward intentions plain in tough speeches on the economy and the media, and by appointing political commissars to senior ranks in the People's Liberation Army.

Since he became party General Secretary, President, and chairman of the Central Military Commission, China's equivalent of army commander-in-chief — offices he has accumulated since 1989, thus rivaling Chairman Mao — Mr Jiang has almost always worn a Western lounge suit to show his adherence to the policy of opening China's door to the West.

But dress is a significant political indicator in China and on Wednesday, when he called for economic reforms to be slowed down to counter Western threats, Mr Jiang wore the traditional buttoned-up tunic, sometimes called a Mao suit. On Tuesday, when he promoted four senior military men to full generals, the President, who has never served in the forces, appeared in a military outfit minus insignia.

Part of what he is doing is continuing his erosion of the family of Deng Xiaoping, the 91-year-old senior leader, some of whose closest allies, including Peking's party boss, President Jiang picked off last year on corruption charges and whose economic policies he savaged on Wednesday.

Mr Deng used to justify the potential dangers of economic reform by admitting that "when you open the door sometimes flies and other insects come in". He meant that to some extent China



Peking's leader has switched to a politically correct wardrobe for old-style policies, writes Jonathan Mirsky

would take the risk of foreign ideas causing a degree of "spiritual pollution". In 1985 Chen Yun, a leading conservative, said that Mr Deng's reforms were leading to corruption and crime and threatening party stability.

This week Mr Jiang, who in 1989 after the Tiananmen Square massacre had been declared by Mr Deng to be his heir and the "core leader", echoed the Chen warnings. "We must ban the cultural trash poisoning the people and the social atmosphere," he said, adding: "We cannot sacrifice culture and ideology merely for a short period of economic development."

Mr Jiang was repeating the old party fears of Western-style ideas, which has been borne out in recent weeks by the cancelling of research projects in the Academy of Social Sciences deemed to be too liberal.

The media, always a party worry, have been warned recently that they must obtain economic news filtered through the official news agency and to avoid subjects which "sland China". Three days ago Mr Jiang, while visiting the army's own paper, *People's Liberation Army Daily*, said bluntly, quoting Mao: "To do news work successfully it is imperative that statesmen run newspapers." Journalism, he said, "always reflects directly or indirectly the party's and the Government's political standards, positions and viewpoints". Papers were told to "resist the invasion of corrupt capitalist thinking".

Mr Jiang was repeating the old party fears of Western-style ideas, which has been borne out in recent weeks by the cancelling of research projects in the Academy of Social Sciences deemed to be too liberal.

Cutting cloth to suit pattern of the time

By JONATHAN MIRSKY

DRESS, always important in Chinese traditional times for displaying rank and status, has signified political correctness in modern times.

China's first President, Sun Yat-sen, wore a Russian-style close-fitting tunic as a sign of modern, military austerity. This was the origin of the Mao jacket. His successor, Chiang Kai-shek, alternated between Western-style military dress and mandarin robes, designed to show off his bogus veneration for the Confucian tradition.

Mao wore a variation on the Sun Yat-sen outfit, as shabby as possible, a reflection of the Chairman's carelessness about personal attire: his top colleagues wore immaculate versions of the same outfit. In the Maoist period it would have been literal sui-

cide to wear anything else. After Mao's death in 1976, senior officials began venturing into the presence of foreigners in Western lounge suits, and in 1987 when Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, became party General Secretary he emerged with his most senior Politburo colleagues before the Western press, all wearing smart suits.

Zhao made them open their jackets to display the Shanghai labels — always a sign of the best in China — evidence, he said, that reform had now touched the personal habits of the leaders. But the founder of reform, Deng Xiaoping, kept to the tunic.

Canny intellectuals are said to keep battered old clothes under their beds in case the proletarian look ever roars back into fashion.

Destruction date is set for the final stocks of smallpox

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

STOCKS of the smallpox virus should be destroyed by the end of June 1999, the executive board of the World Health Organisation has decreed.

That decision must be ratified by the organisation's 190 member states at the World Health Assembly next May. The delay until 1999 is designed, it says, to "give time to reach a broader consensus".

Just two stocks of smallpox virus remain, at the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Russian State Research Centre for Virology and Biotechnology in Koltsovo, Novosibirsk. A scourge of mankind for more than 3,500 years, smallpox was eliminated from the wild by a 1980 vaccination campaign.

Destruction of the last remaining laboratory stocks has been opposed on principle, and on scientific grounds. Some scientists simply oppose destroying any form of life, even a virus estimated to have killed 600,000 people a year in Europe between the 16th and 18th centuries. "To wipe out a species is always a concern," says Dr Brian Mahy of CDC.

Some scientists who work on viruses oppose destruction

because there may still be things to learn by studying smallpox. The WHO says scientists have now produced harmless clones of the virus and have its full genetic blueprint, which should provide them with all they need.

The virus will be destroyed by autoclave — an oven that will heat it to fatally high temperatures. The virus will be taken from its locked freezer at a maximum security building by researchers in pressurised spacesuits and heated to 130°C for 40 minutes. Then the process will be repeated.

But the WHO's setting of the destruction date so far ahead leaves plenty of time for last-minute pleas. In a communiqué, the organisation said the disease's eradication was "among the greatest public health achievements of all time". The last known case of smallpox, which disfigures and causes blindness and even death, was recorded in Somalia in 1977.

The destruction of smallpox in the wild means that mankind is progressively losing any natural resistance to it. In theory at least, that means an escape could set off a major epidemic.



Change of mood: President Jiang, the moderniser in Western suit and tie, is transformed into traditional hardliner in a Mao suit

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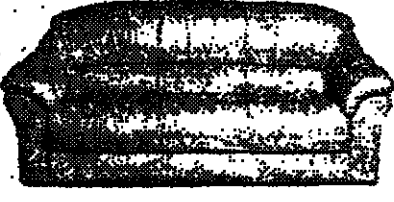
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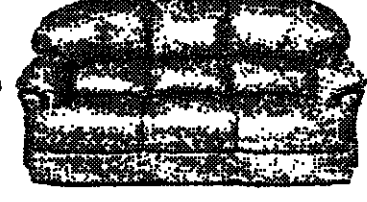
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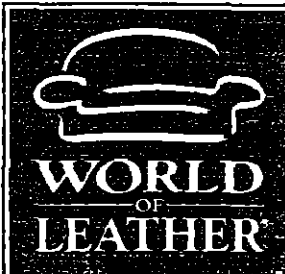
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Bristol Cribbs Causeway,
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Cardiff City Link, Newport Road
Swansea Valley Way, Llanmallet

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Shopping Centre, Hagley Road
Leicester Grove Farm Triangle,
(Nr. Sainsbury's, Opp. Fosse Park)
Northampton Bridge Street
Nottingham Huntingdon Street
Wolverhampton Stafford Street
YORKSHIRE
Leeds Airedale Centre,
Whitehall Road
Rotherham Retail World,
Parkgate
NORTH EAST
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Liverpool 459 Edge Lane,
(1 mi. from M62)
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SCOTLAND
Glasgow Great Western Retail
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How to show you're a lady



Feathers and flowers: **GIANNI VERSACE**'s models wore a single feather in their hair (left), while **YVES SAINT LAURENT** modelled blooms (right)



Featherweight fabrics: **VALENTINO**'s patchworked lace (left), **GIVENCHY**'s galleon dresses (centre) and **DIOR**'s floral tribute (right)



Feather cut: **CHANEL**'s slender silhouette was all about the fit. Photographs by CHRIS MOORE

PARIS

Designers dazzle with divine haute couture

Edith Head, the most celebrated of Hollywood's costume designers, who dressed everyone from Marlene Dietrich to Mae West, once said: "You never forget the dress or suit in which you looked well, felt right, and lived wonderful moments."

At the haute couture collections shown in Paris this week there were some truly wonderful moments and some truly fabulous, unforgettable clothes.

Haute couture has much in common with Edith Head. It deals in fantasy. It produces clothes (very expensive clothes) designed specifically so a woman might play a role, be it on the big screen, on her big day (bridal gowns count for much of the couturier's custom), at a quiet society luncheon or a flash awards ceremony. Haute couture is the ultimate luxury — a dressmaker to the stars.

It is not difficult to see why screen stars such as Melanie Griffiths and Sharon Stone head for the door of John Galiano. His debut collection for Givenchy began with familiar larger-than-life ballgowns, but it was the quieter moments which revealed his true potential: an ivory button-through day dress with a chestnut belt, or the single-button stone wool trouser suit, as simple as it sounds. Only, like everything else, tailored to perfection.

By far the most popular motifs of the season were flowers and feathers: Dior's floral tributes disguised as evening dresses and Ungaro's fluffball, powderpuff trim.

Yves Saint Laurent's 1940s-inspired collection fluttered down the catwalk. Best was a bolero of giant rose petals worn over a sliver of black satin and chantilly lace with straps as fine as a single strand of sewing thread. Divine.

There were moments of divine inspiration on the catwalk of Valentino — featherweight patchworked lace dresses, long poloneck dresses with only a narrow hipster belt as decoration, and understated space cadet day wear — but mostly his silhouettes appeared a little too mumsy.

Gianni Versace miraculously sewed leather and lace

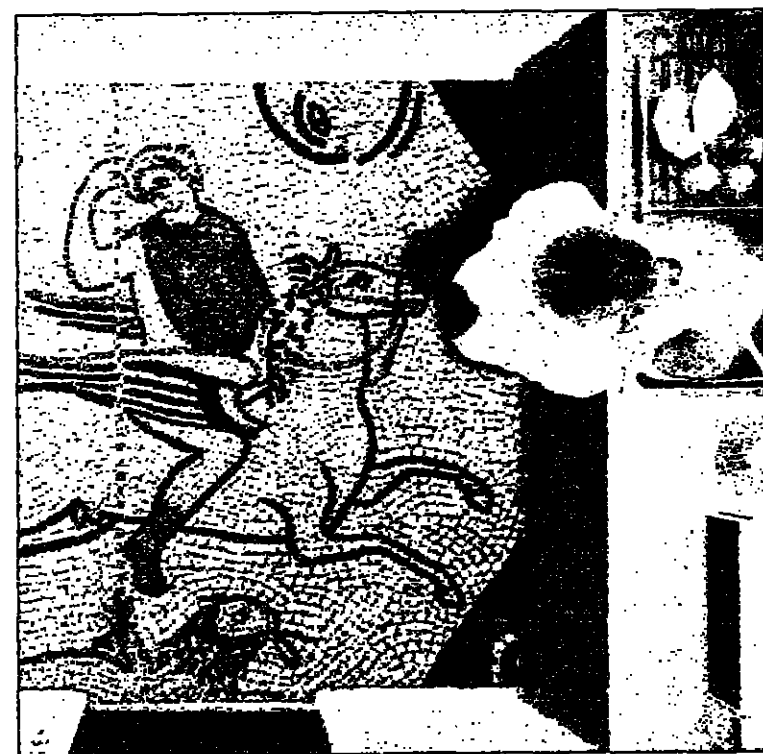
together and made it flow effortlessly around the body, exposing goodly amounts of flesh. His daywear was more demure, but cut in flashy, often clashing, optical patterns and animal prints. It had plenty of rock 'n' roll attitude.

Black lace dresses by Oscar de la Renta for Balmain cast a mere shadow across his models. So superfine, they looked little more than a trace of where a real dress might be.

Christian Lacroix blitzed Paris with blistering colourways — chartreuse, Parma violet, marshmallow pink and tangerine. He puffed satin into wonderful voluminous skirts, while his corsets literally dripped with jewels.

There were few moments this week as unforgettable as the Chanel show at the Ritz. The collection designed by Karl Lagerfeld offered a slender silhouette. Skirts either skimmed the knees or fell to the floor. Jackets held the body's line, accentuating the shoulders, slipping out at the hip. Everything fitted like a glove.

Edith Head once suggested her epitaph: "A dress should be tight enough to show you're a woman and loose enough to prove you're a lady." Lagerfeld's latest designs certainly fit the bill.



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Fashion journalist of the year



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Ten years after *The Times* began its new life in Wapping, Peter Stothard recalls the days of revolution

And then it was up to us

I'll pick you up in ten minutes," said the Editor. "We're going for a drive."

Charles Wilson always moved quickly about *The Times*, but on this occasion his speed was astonishing. I looked back into his office to ask a question. He had disappeared.

Fifteen minutes later I was still waiting for him outside our glass-and-marble entrance hall. I looked for Joe, his driver. Nothing. Finally the Editor's car came up from behind. Charlie himself was at the wheel, adjusting himself to what looked like unfamiliar controls. "Get in," he gestured. I had to struggle with the locked passenger door. "Where you are going now," he barked, "you are going to want to talk about." Pause. "But you can only talk about it with the people you are going to see there. That is absolutely important." He thrust his finger to amplify his point: the car swerved as though to agree with him.

Until that moment, unlike the small group that had planned the move of News International Newspapers to Wapping ten years ago today, I was almost unaware of what was about to happen to us all. In December 1985, my job was writing political leaders. My mind was on the Westland affair, in which leaks and betrayals were nearly destroying the Thatcher Government.

Charlie's mind was elsewhere. During the journey I heard a serious lecture on the dangers of leaks, betrayals, divisions and broken promises — at the senior levels of newspapers. After 20 minutes, he turned the car towards some iron gates and the intense attention of two guards. We then swept up a curving concrete ramp and into a dark shed.

I quickly realised that I had failed the first test. I would like to be able to claim now that I saw instantly the benefits of a new printing plant, with new work practices and a reliable means of producing and distributing our work. But, dazed perhaps by the secrecy and drama, I did not

Charlie left the car diagonally across the shed floor. "Look at this," he said. "Wider than Fleet Street."

Half-an-hour later, up above in the publishing room, the truth began to tell. Sets of blue-and-yellow belts were circling around iron frames like a Meccano monster in Hamley's window. Real newspapers were on the move. The printing machinery was loaded with newsprint, as though ready to produce proper copies of *The Times*. The place was "manned as though ready to go" and yet it was almost deserted.

It is customary now for writers to compare the dirty, dangerous and union-dominated plants of Gray's Inn Road with the clean efficiency of Wapping. I have read so much about the old press halls, where Mickey Mouse played at Spanish practices with Sogat, Natsopa and the NGA, that I almost believe I experienced them for myself.

In fact, and in common with many writers on *The Times* ten years ago, I had barely been on the site of Britain's notorious industrial battlefields. On the one occasion when I dared a visit to the machine-room floors, I was greeted by grown men pretending to be monkeys in a zoo. I did not go back.

Many managers I discovered had rarely entered the alien territory which they were vainly charged to control. "Here," said Charlie, "it is all going to change. We don't know how. But there's an Armageddon about to happen. And we have got to be ready for it." He pointed out a long, low brick building just a few yards away. Today the office of *The Times* seems a perfectly plausible place for a newspaper to be, but on that day a decade ago it did not. It looked to me like a long broken brick pillar, part of some giant dockworks which had known better days. "And here we are," he said.

The new entrance to *The Times* building was by an unusually wide door flanked by handrails. The floor rose gradually without a step. We walked in. This was to have

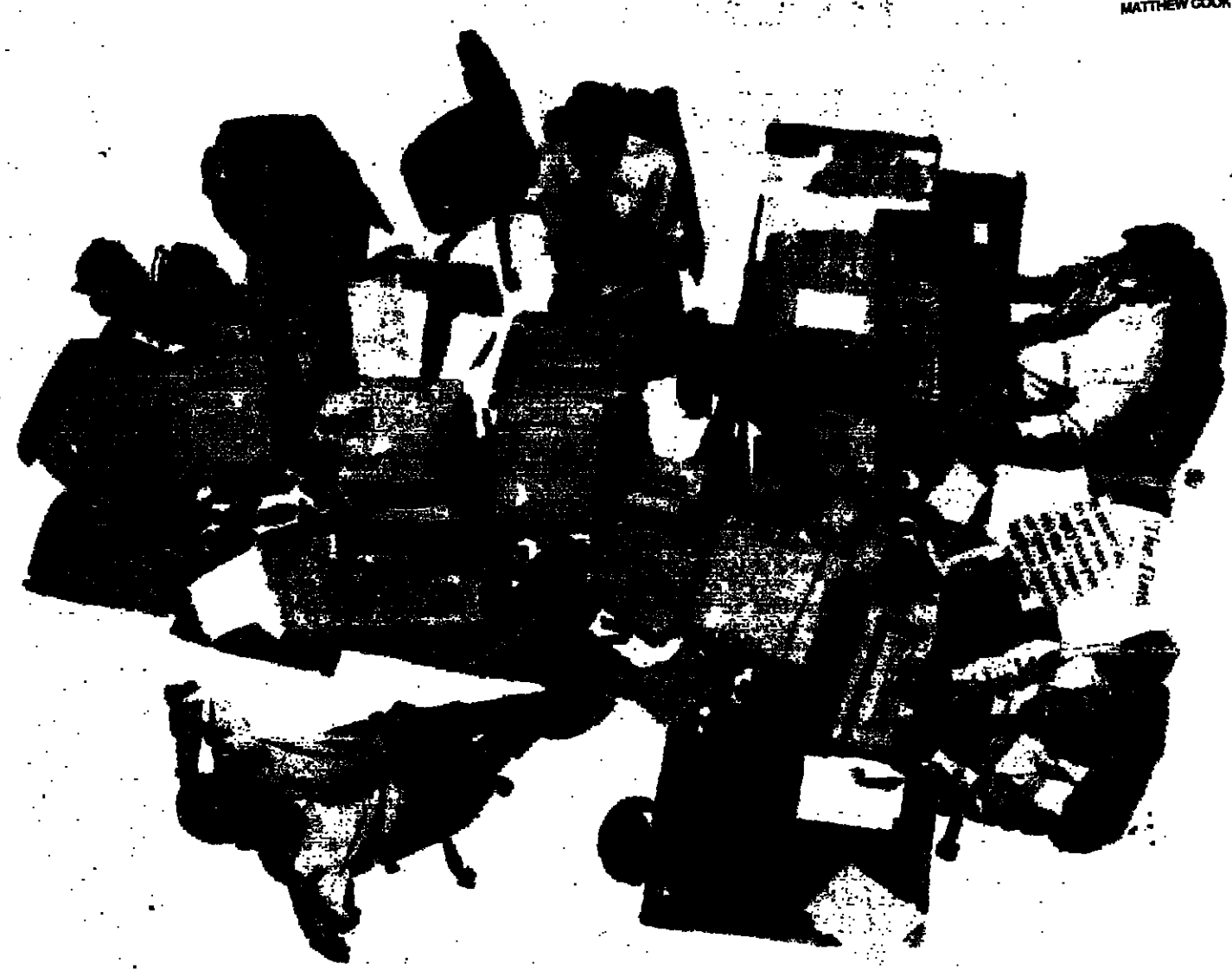
been the Editor's office for Charlie One, as we knew him. Charles Douglas-Horne, whose cancer had kept him in a wheelchair before his death the previous month. He never used his custom-built doorway. For Charlie Two, editorship and Armageddon were to come in quick succession.

Inside were our desks, our computers and a fresh carpentry smell. Everyone had a space reserved. All the journalists who wanted to come to the new world of newspapers would be able to take their places. By now it was clear what was going to happen. We stayed only a few minutes and left quietly, discussing Westland — a safer topic.

I still have the somewhat portentous note that I wrote for a friend abroad that night and never posted: "The trip back to Gray's Inn Road this afternoon was almost supernatural. Everyone in our old office has a place marked for them elsewhere, a place which they sometimes speak of in hushed tones but truly know nothing of, a place which they can enter if they make the right decision and will be barred from it if they make the wrong one: it is like a heaven — although some will certainly call it a hell."

By January 24, 1986, we were almost trained in the new technology. Inside the offices of a musical impresario close to Claridge's, a team of formidable Australian women had the job of tutoring journalists. It was a tough task. I had never before learnt even to touch-type (for years I had dictated letters to my secretary, Val Smith, peering round the desk for what I thought was rhetorical impact) and I was not alone. One of our finest "production journalists" found it hard even to operate the teach-yourself cassette tape, let alone the Atari computers. Out in the street, after my first visit, I met Eric Jacobs, one of the shrewdest observers of newspaper politics, on his way to the Savile Club. I was sure we had been rumoured. But no. The secret remained safe for all the weeks that were necessary.

In the marble entrance hall where two months earlier I had waited for Charlie's car, several of us, including Rupert Murdoch, the Editor and I, were waiting to greet the Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres. We knew that elsewhere in the building, negotiations with the print unions were proceeding to-



wards a bigger than usual stone wall. Israeli security guards mingled with angry printworkers. Someone behind me said that it was the hosts, not the guests, who that day ran the greater risk of attack. We managed nervous smiles.

Later that afternoon the decision came down that the stone wall had, indeed, been reached. The unions were not to blackmail us again; we were on the move to a place which the unions were confident could never work without them. There was to be no edition of *The Times* that night — but, if we kept our nerve, only that night.

I do not recall exactly how the news arrived among the leader-writers. I noticed first that the picture of Charles Douglas-Horne on the corridor wall had been taken. I thought it had been vandalised until I saw Liz Seiber, the Editor's personal assistant, lovingly brandishing her screwdriver so that Charlie One, William Rees-Mogg and the rest of our Editors-gone-by should go with Charlie Two to Wapping.

The oil painting of Henri de Blowitz, our 19th-century Paris correspondent, was soon on its way to Wapping in the boot of our night editor's Sierra. Benjamin Robert

Haydon's great painting *Waiting for the Times*, which traditionally hangs behind the Editor's office chair, received gentler treatment on the back seat of Charlie's Jaguar.

I felt relief that the waiting was over. But like writers everywhere, I was unreasonably irritated by the loss of my latest words — a leader about the Westland affair, which Val had just finished turning into "copy", and which was now surplus to requirements. Inside our corner office there was nothing much to save except a dozen bottles of South African wine, which the chief sub had just delivered at favourable wholesale prices, and some champagne which Bernard Levin had given me for Christmas. So my departure past an incipient picket line was more clanking than the occasion properly merited.

We did, indeed, miss only that one Saturday issue. The bound volume of *The Times* for 1986, which sits on the Editor's desk as I write these words, contains a lone *Daily Telegraph* to fill the space on that day, January 25: warning enough of what might have happened had the move not been so well prepared. By Sunday

we were at work in Wapping. The shed, "wider than Fleet Street", was full of trucks.

Not all our journalists had claimed their places in the next life but there were enough of us. Gradually, over the following days and weeks, most of the desks filled. There eventually came the true exhilaration of being free from union censorship and control, free to produce as many newspapers as our readers would buy, free to print in colour, free to begin again the creative business of making and selling *The Times*.

There were bad days among the good. I had not personally hated the trade union officials before: I had hardly seen them, and if some of their members wanted to make me feel like a zoo visitor, that was their choice. But I did hate the union pickets outside Wapping who stuck dozens of corrosive sticky labels on Val Smith's new car. I did hate the pickets for selecting their targets from among the physically smallest, weakest and most vulnerable. I still remember the politicians who supported trade union violence that they knew was wrong but did not dare to condemn.

Today is the tenth anniversary of

our first full day at Wapping. My strongest memories, however, are not of that first day here but of the days before the Armageddon, of Charles Wilson's discipline, of Rupert Murdoch's certainty, of the journalists on *The Times* who on one Friday night determined that our best traditions, our best values, even our best oil paintings, would live and move on.

We have no first edition copy left of the issue dated January 27. The main story all night was Westland — but the earliest copies, I remember, also had on the front page news of a will, for some £300,000, left by a gentleman from Shoreham-by-Sea. This did not signal a new editorial policy: the only alternative to the will was a white space where a News-in-Brief should have been.

There was a leader on Westland too, not dissimilar to the one I had dictated two days before. But at every full stop in the first edition, there was also the start of a new paragraph. At first I blamed my Australian keyboard tactics for this unwelcome staccato in my style. But from that first day in Wapping, every typographical mistake was ours.

The author is Editor of *The Times*.

Barristers and solicitors are as bad as each other — just try complaining about them

Inequality before the law

I have just realised that it is an appallingly long time since I had the pleasure of annoying the lawyers: please allow me to catch up now. (I have more than once drawn attention to the fact that although I am known as the Lawyer's Bane, I have an astonishing large number of dear friends from the world of law.) So if the wind is in the west, you will shortly hear the familiar cries of "Oh, it's Levin again, why doesn't somebody hit him over the head with a copy of *Chitty on Contract*? That would shut him up for a bit."

Yes, but only a bit. And the first thing I must draw to the nation's eye is the lawyers' almost incredible belief that the nation doesn't notice what the lawyers are doing. It is not a matter of hiding behind the gowns and wigs or trying to bamboozle the customers with arcane language: the lawyers themselves are the first to climb onto the rooftops and declare their very worst wickednesses.

Here is our infallible legal correspondent, Frances Gibb, on the subject:

Plans for barristers' clients to be able to claim compensation for shoddy work have been diluted to gain the profession's backing. . . . Leaders of the Bar have redrawn the scheme for a complaints system to make it far harder to lodge a successful compensation claim against a barrister. . . . consumer bodies have criticised the amendments, arguing that even in its original form the scheme offered inadequate remedies for shoddy service from barristers. . . . At present the Bar will consider only the most serious complaints amounting to professional misconduct, and no compensation is payable. But after the revised scheme. . . . people can claim

compensation only if they can prove they have suffered actual monetary loss. . . . the test of "inadequate professional service" has been tightened, so that complaints will be limited to conduct which falls "significantly short of that which is to be reasonably expected of a barrister in all the circumstances". . . . the scheme is also far more restrictive than that originally proposed by a committee under Lord Alexander. . . . a former Bar chairman. . . . People would have been able to complain about work in court, as well as out of it. . . . But the Bar has refused to accept that recommendation. Its proposed scheme says the immunity should apply even to lesser complaints of shoddy work. . . .

You must admit that this is the most monumental *chutzpah* even the lawyers have ever cooked up. It states unashamedly that if you are obviously and clearly wronged by an ignorant, lazy, incompetent, drunken or stupid lawyer, and you seek compensation, you can whistle for it, and I wouldn't be surprised if the Bar's next charmer will be to take those who are due for compensation and have them thrown into jail, insisting that any claim against any lawyer is *ipso facto* criminal.

But you haven't heard the best of it, and I have, so I must share it with you. The former chairman of the Bar, Peter Goldsmith, QC, obviously cannot say

plainly and in human language that a large number of his fellow lawyers are a bunch of greedy scoundrels, but he must be worried that one day the public will wake up and erect a guillotine — a sharp guillotine.

Hear him trying to sit on both ends of the see-saw. "The . . . concerns of the profession have been taken on board to produce a scheme that balances the interests of the public with those of the barrister." (And presumably vice versa.)

But the really funny bit in Mr Goldsmith's see-sawing is when he, without any kind of scheme, the Bar risked being regulated by a quango.

Isn't it wonderful? Can't you see it? The hordes of barristers immediately called from whatever work they were doing (ruining someone, I wouldn't wonder) — hundreds from the House of Commons alone — the gigantic swarms from the Civil Service, the huge billboards (no expense spared), announcing that the nation will collapse instantly if even one hair on one head of one lawyer is ever disturbed, the older lawyers dropping

dead by the dozen with the horror of it, the — well, you get the idea, which is that there is nothing whatever, not even a couple of dozen atomic bombs, that would or could be allowed to lose an argument between the Bar, the very Bar, and a mere Parliament.

But I have a surprise for you. When the infamous name of Levin is heard in the land, many a wig-and-gown years for a world in which murder is not a crime; but I have to remind you that when I use the word lawyer, I could be using it in two very clearly separate senses, and having had a word or two with the Bar, I turn now to the solicitors. Nor is that switch just a dip in the bran-tub: for the solicitors have been pulled up for a very good reason. The reason is that *Which?* the splendid, ironclad, glorious monthly magazine which tells us which sauceman to buy, and which motorcar not to buy (to the fury of the lesser sauceman-makers and the lesser motor-car makers) — is on the march.

Doubled up with laughter, I knew what was coming. Just as all the barristers go purple in the face and start screaming if anybody says they are not perfect, so it was exactly with the solicitors. Try a headline or two: for instance, "Consumer group accuses lawyers of shoddy service", and far worse. "How clients were told to take the 'wrong' action". For when *Which?* is on the warpath, it goes incognito; if *Which?* wants to try hairpins or elephants, the answer comes only when the work has been done. So, of course, the lawyers — be they barristers or solicitors — are screaming "We wuz robbed".

Even that very jolly fellow Martin Mears abandoned his jollity and joined the whiners, and fell over his feet with joy when he claimed he had found a mistake among the *Which?* finger-pointers. (He wants the evidence to be produced before the denouement, but *Which?* never allows that, quite rightly.)

Anyway the evidence is appalling. I haven't got the space for what Mrs S went through, but she had to fight for the compensation — she was offered £2,500 and in the end her solicitors had to pay out £12,500. The truth is that, as the Editor of *Which?* says, "Solicitors owe a duty to their clients to give the best advice. Too often, advice is shoddy and consumers can lose out, wasting time and money

and even going to court unnecessarily". That's nothing: in one test, only one firm out of 40 got it right. When everything has been put together, and all the excuses have run out, this is a giant scandal. After all, we are not trying to find which is the best toaster, they are trying to find lawyers who can do their job properly, and they have found a huge number who cannot. And the squealing and whining only makes the scandal even worse.

But it was brave of *Which?* to cover this story and to stick it out. When the worst toaster is pointed out, and we tell ourselves that without *Which?* we would never have known, there are no screams — the maker of the bad toaster is sufficiently chastened to tip-toe out and go home. But the bad solicitor hasn't caught on. He does not tip-toe out — he stays there, screaming that he is innocent and so are all other solicitors.

Now, we all know, or we should, what squealing and demanding apologies means: it means that the squealers and shouters and demanders are, every one of them, guilty of what the squealers and shouters deny.

Let us go back to the barristers. They do not scream and shout, but perhaps that is because they are hardened by time not to worry when scoundrels like me point the bone at them. If I am right, all the solicitors have to do is to shut up and stop squealing. Meanwhile, *Which?* has got a huge slice of notoriety: it should capitalise on this, though it is true that the offices of *Which?* will feel rather sedate after this heady stuff. Never mind: what about setting *Which?* on Members of Parliament? Alas, where will you find a "best buy"?

Powell axed

ONE OF Britain's foremost ambassadors has fired a broadside at Sir Charles Powell, the former private secretary to Baroness Thatcher. The salvo comes in the letters pages of this week's *Spectator* from Sir John Weston, Britain's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York.

He accuses Sir Charles of having ideas above his station concerning his relationship with the late Francois Mitterrand. After Mitterrand died, Sir Charles wrote proudly that he "must have spent more time in his company than any other Englishman".

Weston quibbles. "Since the Oxford Dictionary defines 'company' as 'a gathering of people for social intercourse', perhaps it was more a matter of Charles being in the 'presence' of the President. Assuming of course it wasn't the other way round!"

Powell was unreachable in Indonesia yesterday, but one of his supporters dismissed the letter as

typical carping from the Foreign Office. "Charles has always been regarded as a rum one — ever since he nailed his colours so firmly to Mrs T's mast," he said. "It's just the sour grapes you'd expect."



"My Dad is completely lost for words"

● Coincidence-backers were in their element at Lingfield Park yesterday, where all six races were named after former Prime Ministers. The opening event, the Thatcher Limited Stakes, was won by Carrolls Marc, a well supported 7-2 second favourite.

In a spin

THE SWEDISH navy is embarrassed. High ranking naval types have admitted that what they thought was the recorded sound of sinister Soviet propellers was in fact the furious paddling of the little furry legs of the mink.

A scientific commission set up by the Government concludes that most of the invading submarines reported by the navy were mythical. According to an article in the latest issue of *New Scientist*, on 40 occasions between 1992 and 1994, a network of microphones detected the sound of bubbles caused by a rotational movement in the water. The navy estimated the speed at up to 200 rpm, and assumed it must be submarine propellers. But according to the secretary of



the commission, Ingvar Akesson, tests with swimming minks can produce the same readings as propellers. "It is very puzzling but they do," he says admiringly.

● The whisper in Whitehall is that the less-than-entirely-awaited Scott report is to be published on February 14. Not the Valentine's Day missive John Major might have hoped for.

House rules

HARRIET HARMAN's choice of St Olave's is a fine one if she wants her son to master the cut and thrust

of debate. The new president of the Cambridge Union, Nick Chastath, is an old boy, and founded the school debating society.

"I remember one interesting debate," he says naughtily. "We debated the motion, 'This House has become the kind of people it's parents warned it against.' Very apt.

● Michael Foot's residence at No 10 is to be commemorated, even though he never made it to Downing Street. Blaenau Gwent Borough Council is to erect a plaque at the tiny miner's cottage at 10 Morgan Street, Tredegar in Ebbw Vale, the slice of South Wales where Foot was MP for 33 years and wrote most of his acclaimed biography of Aneurin Bevan.

Long walk

GILLIAN CLARKE, the snow-haired wife of the Chancellor who took her degree at Newnham in medieval history before pursuing postgraduate studies, hosted a party at 11 Downing Street last night to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Cam-



The first Newnham ladies

bridge college. The alumni present included Germaine Greer, who now teaches at the college, the fragmentary Mary Archer and the actress Eleanor Bron. Newnham, which claims to have

the longest corridor in Europe, was once the haunt of Prince Edward, who used to visit his old girlfriend, Eleanor Weightman, in her room when he was a student at Jesus between 1983 and 1986. "He used to call her 'Munchkin'," recalled one Newnhamite at the party.

Late start

IRISH ears were smiling recently in Dublin, after a concert by the Oslo Philharmonic, which got off to an unpropitious start. The orchestra arrived safely, but the lorry with the instruments and clothes did not. So while the city was searched for instruments to borrow, the audience at the National Concert Hall was entertained by traditional Norwegian ditties and jazz on the piano.

The programme finally began at 10.30pm, when the players trooped on in jeans, T-shirts and sneakers. But pizzazz made up for the delay, in both quality and quantity: it didn't finish until 1.30 in the morning.

P.H.S



ANGLO-IRISH ANGST

Dublin should become a persuader for democracy

Progress in Ulster has been steady and certain when the British and Irish Governments have been travelling in tandem. It is not surprising that the British Government, most as importantly, agreement across the border of the House of Commons, have helped the parties in Northern Ireland a little closer to peace. The strains evident in the Anglo-Irish axis since the publication of the Mitchell report on de-commissioning do not augur well for the days ahead.

Whitehall is anxious to play down talk of a rift but Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, has hardly expressed himself with the measured restraint appropriate to a mild diplomatic disagreement. John Major argued in the House of Commons that he could not see how elections could be regarded as "a block to progress". Mr Spring said elections were, "a cul-de-sac". It is difficult to discern the common ground there. To be sure, the Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, has been less blunt. In a speech yesterday to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg he simply downgraded Mr Major's imaginative support for an elected body as, "no more than an idea". It is an idea whose time has come and one which deserves better than this wintery dismissal from Dublin.

An elected body, far from being a cul-de-sac, detour, or even road back to Stormont, is the most creative proposal yet advanced for moving the peace process forward. No guns would have to be given up before the talking could begin; every party would have shown its commitment to democracy by using the ballot box, not the bullet, to test its true strength.

Dublin's coolness seems to be born not of principled objection to an elected body per se but recognition of its unpopularity with northern nationalists. Mr Bruton argued in Strasbourg that, "any device, however well crafted or logical, which attracts one set of parties but repels another is not enough". On the contrary, Mr Bruton's response is

not enough. He should use his influence with the SDLP and Sinn Féin to show them that elections are a bridge and not a snare. He should act as a persuader for democracy.

Mr Major has recognised that nationalists are wary of a body that might evolve into another instrument for narrow majority rule within Ulster and has pledged to address their concerns. What have they to fear from exploring Mr Major's ideas? Proportional representation could ensure a place for parties currently excluded. A weighted majority system could prevent any section of the community having its interests over-ruled.

The Ulster Unionists have already moved to ally some nationalist concerns. In the Commons yesterday their Deputy Leader, John Taylor, made it clear he saw an elected body as a peace convention, not Stormont by stealth. He also reiterated the need for any body to incorporate a cross-border dimension. The Unionists recognise any purely internal settlement could not work and do not want one. They have shown an imagination which the SDLP would do well to emulate. The intransigence which was once the hallmark of Unionist thinking now seems to be set deeper in the nationalist mind.

It is not only nationalists south of the border who might, with profit, coax the SDLP into a more constructive position: their fellow social democrats at Westminster could play a part. Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, Marjorie Mowlam, sought yesterday to ensure that any move to elections commanded "widespread agreement". She was speaking up for the SDLP. Talking directly to them about the merits of the elective process would also be welcome.

If the Irish Government and the Westminster consensus swing behind the Prime Minister then democratic habits will have a chance to take firmer root in Ulster. Elections will eventually determine Northern Ireland's future. The sooner the people of the Province have a chance to speak, the better.

GERMAN ECONOMIC GLOOM

After its miracle, Germany needs painful renewal

Even as Helmut Kohl is promising to create two million new jobs to relieve soaring unemployment in Germany, his Government is making predictions that all but destroy hopes of a quick fix to Germany's looming economic problems. A report by Jürgen Rüttgers, the federal minister for research, science and technology, has given a warning that Germany is falling behind in the race to build up high technology industries. It is investing less than its competitors in information technology, bio-engineering and aerospace. Its industrial leaders have become complacent and fearful of taking risks. By sticking to proven exports such as cars and pharmaceuticals, they are jeopardising Germany's lead in key exports. The country is increasingly living off past success.

Even the present industrial base is being eroded by high costs and restrictive practices. Firms are locating new plant in cheaper neighbouring countries (including Britain); Germany's low investment is undermining its edge over the dynamic economies of Asia; growth is expected to be 1.5 per cent this year, and companies are shedding jobs in key sectors such as aerospace.

The warning from Herr Rüttgers is the more urgent in view of alarming figures on the burgeoning social security budget. Like other wealthy continental countries that in the late 1980s saw no end to the boom, Germany is living beyond its means. Generous social provision is overburdening employers, taxpayers and government. Entrenched union power, the inflexibility of central wage bargaining and the political consensus on the need to protect workers' entitlements mean that it is difficult for the country now to tighten its belt. The Dutch and the Swedes

have begun to rein in social spending; apart from making big cuts in health provision, Germans have so far shied away from the surgery they know must soon be performed.

Being Germany, there are plenty of doom-sayers. Herr Kohl himself has campaigned on the need to make the country more competitive. His grand design to cut unemployment by half over the next four years frankly acknowledges the need for more flexible — and longer — working hours, for more innovative management and for more union concessions. But the political will to alter the economic framework, sweep away restrictions and refinance the social security budget is lacking. Germany's Christian Democrats have a working-class base, with his narrow majority and tottering coalition. Herr Kohl is afraid of alienating his voters. The Social Democrats, as usual, are dithering. And the small Free Democratic Party, struggling to find any new identity to save it from extinction, is fragmenting, with some members moving to the right and others returning to the Social Democratic fold.

Germany has a tradition of high investment, which has helped it meet the challenge of reunification. The danger is that after this extraordinary success the country will relax, taking its eye off the greater challenge of future competitiveness. Many Germans, including Herr Kohl, still seem to believe that economic salvation lies in rigging the European market with a single currency (a disguised devaluation) and a "strengthened" social chapter (a disguised tax on EU labour that would reduce the global competitiveness of all European countries). But in the end, no amount of market rigging will avoid the need for painful economic readjustments.

TRUMPS FOR ALL

Bridge is queen of sports, for mind, memory and merry chance

Folk wisdom recommends that one should not cross a bridge until one comes to it. But today bridge, the card game named after man's oldest architectural structure, comes to everyone who has ever been dealt a lay-down slam or a Yarborough. As reported in our sports pages, *The Times* Midland Private Banking National bridge challenge launches Britain's biggest bridge tournament. For the first time players of all abilities, from grand master to social rabbit who can never get back into dummy in three no trumps, have a chance to compete. This is a democratisation of the rich man's game, now played by 250,000 competitively in this country, and by two million socially, for the fun of a penny a point and post mortems.

The champions will win serious money. The surplus, estimated at £100,000, will be given to the National Trust. That is a worthy recipient, not just because bridge is played in palaces as well as bed-sitters, but because the trust owns the card-rooms left in this country. Cards have been an Englishman's sport since they were invented. And all inhabitants of the United Kingdom are divided into three parties: bridge-players, poker-players and those who cannot handle cards.

From its foundation manifesto 211 years ago, *The Times* has found space for sports as well as the heavier stuff of politics. Its founding father declared that his newspaper should be like a well-covered table, with something to suit every palate. Bridge was invented by Harold Vanderbilt on a Carib-

bean cruise in 1925. The sociable-intellectual game caught the mood of the Twenties as characteristically as cocktails and the Charleston. And *The Times* appointed its first bridge correspondent. His first column began: "Bridge has been having a hard time. If it were not a game of superlative merits, it might quite reasonably have gone under."

Luckily he was wrong. Bridge has survived and become one of the most popular activities in that no-man's land between games, sports and serious gambling. *Times* bridge correspondents have been a noble band of eccentric masters of the game, who have invented the conventions and made the rules. Edward Mayer, our bridge correspondent from 1953 to 1980, was the last of the old-fashioned London clubmen. On the first bridge ladies' night in clubland, his American partner asked brashly: "OK if I call you Ed?" He replied with the emphasis of a killing pass: "But Madam, if you call me Ed, what are my friends to call me?"

Chess will always be the king of games, because it combines memory and intellect with daring and psychology. But bridge is the queen, because it has all those, with a bit of luck and social intercourse thrown in, even if post mortems do not always make comfortable colloquia. So our new bridge competition will add to the gaiety of nations, the revenues of the National Trust, and the innocent profits of those who dare to bid right up to the limits of their hands, and even beyond.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Labour's education policy and the Harman affair

From the Headmaster of Caistor Grammar School

Sir, The Labour Party claims to be committed to offering parents choice and to raising educational standards (Letters, January 24). Yet it is also opposed to all selection by interview and examination. Further, it will allow local ballots in order to propose the closure of grammar schools (report, June 23, 1995).

There is an important inconsistency in this position. Parents want to be able to choose their child's school. Most would prefer to be able to choose from a range of successful, effective schools.

Such choice is extended through a diversity of provision. Changing successful and popular schools does not help to raise standards — quite the reverse.

If the Labour Party wishes to be consistent and to respond to popular opinion it would allow local ballots to take place not only on closing grammar schools but as to whether selection should be extended. If local opinion wanted this, it would happen.

As the headmaster of a successful grammar school surrounded by other successful schools that are not selective, I am not calling for a full-scale return to selection. But it seems perverse to talk of extending parental choice when the actual effect of policy is to remove it.

Let us hope Mr Blair will now have the courage to accept this and take prompt action to change it. He should allow parents the option to vote for more selection.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER HALE,
Headmaster,
Caistor Grammar School,
Caistor, Lincolnshire.
January 25.

From Mr Stuart Sexton

Sir, There are sound educational reasons why children of all abilities achieve more academically if they are taught in groups of similar ability. They therefore need to be selected into such groups of similar ability.

A comparison made in 1975-76 of the

examination results of the comprehensives on the one hand and of the grammars and secondary moderns, taken together, on the other, showed that children were much more likely to achieve a higher academic standard in the selective system.

I conducted the research on which that comparison was based. Between 1979 and 1981 Dr John Marks conducted more extensive research into the statistics of examination results, and came up with the same conclusion.

The comprehensives were introduced to advance social egalitarianism, not to raise academic standards. If we wish to raise educational standards for all children, not just the brightest, we need to restore the selective system of grammar schools and secondary moderns. Those secondary moderns themselves should be more specialised in certain subjects than they used to be.

Yours faithfully,
STUART SEXTON
(Director, Education Unit),
Warrington Park School,
Cheltenham Common,
Warrington, Surrey.
January 23.

From Mr Patrick Vincent

Sir, No one appears to doubt that Harriet Harman is committed to Labour's education policy, and her choice of a grammar school now is not as a matter of logic incompatible with a genuine (if mistaken) belief that a policy which eliminated grammar schools in the future would have universal educational benefits.

Her actions are no more hypocritical than those of an MP who advocates higher taxes but does not voluntarily pay his or her extra slice to the Treasury.

Ms Harman may well have given ammunition to the opponents of Labour's education policy, but she does not deserve attacks on her integrity.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK VINCENT,
12 Kings Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.
January 23.

From Mr Roger A. Jarman

Sir, Though I suspect he may not realise it, Mr James McFarlane (Letter, January 24) deserves congratulations for his apt comparison between selective schools and football teams. Both are ruthless in picking those who will give them the best results and discarding those who will not perform; for neither is the personal development of the individual a priority.

The sooner we get away from a system that sets school against school, parent against parent, pupil against pupil in an unhealthy competition for higher league places, the sooner we will have an educational system which truly works for the good of all children.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER JARMAN,
67 Cowley Road, Oxford.
January 24.

From Professor Stewart D. Hodges

Sir, I lived in Orpington as a school-boy and attended St Olave's Grammar School between 1956 and 1963. At that time the school was not in Orpington: it was on Tooley Street, beside the dockside warehouses just south of Tower Bridge, and in the heart of Bermondsey and Southwark.

School services were held in Southwark Cathedral. St Olave's was founded in Southwark in the sixteenth century and makes an apt choice for a Southwark family.

The train journey I took between Orpington and London Bridge is probably no more onerous now than it was then — except that I could enjoy for a while the novelty of riding home in a steam train, often pulled by a Public Schools-class locomotive, and even occasionally by "St Olaves".

Had the inner-London politics of the time been less vehemently opposed to selective schools Southwark might have been able to retain this fine school.

Yours sincerely,
STEWART HODGES (Director,
Financial Options Research Centre),
University of Warwick,
Coventry CV4 7AL.
January 23.

Are rabies rules cruel or necessary?

From Mr Harry Turcan

Sir, As the owner of a dog which fell victim to what Simon Jenkins describes as the Government's hypocritical enforcement of its obsolete rabies regulations ("Englishmen and mad dogs", January 2) I should like to endorse the points he makes so forcefully.

Our West Highland terrier accompanied us on a scheduled flight from Edinburgh to London but the airline failed to unload her at Heathrow and the plane took off for Amsterdam. The dog spent the night in a government-approved isolation unit and was returned to London under escort on the first plane next morning. Reasoned applications for a waiver of the regulations supported by, amongst others, the chief veterinary officer of the RSPCA, fell on deaf ears and the dog spent six expensive and totally unnecessary months in a quarantine kennel.

In a pathetic attempt to avoid the issue being referred to the European Court our beleaguered Government now allows breeding dogs to be imported without being subjected to the regulations but domestic pets must still serve their six months inside.

It is, I believe, now beyond argument that a properly vaccinated dog brings with it no risk of rabies, whereas the continued enforcement of these outdated regulations provides a powerful incentive to avoid them by smuggling a possibly unvaccinated pet into this country.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. TURCAN,
4 Paper Buildings, Temple, EC4.
January 22.

From Dr Surinder Singh Bakhshi

Sir, Threat of rabies in England may be remote but is still real. A dog incubating rabies was brought by air from Turkey to rabies-free Düsseldorf, Germany, under its more relaxed rules in April 1995. The city was panic-stricken. Hundreds of contacts had to be searched for in Germany and abroad to receive post-exposure vaccination. Düsseldorf was placed under quarantine. Movement of dogs and cats had to be restricted and many were confined in quarantine.

Only eight of the 36 European countries are recognised to be free of rabies by the World Health Organisation. Germany, France, Spain, Belgium and Switzerland are some of the countries which are not. Freedom from rabies, and securing our borders against it, means that our pets do not have to be vaccinated, the cost of which would amount to far more than the £200 million in kennel fees which Mr Jenkins finds so inequitable.

A time may come when the stringent quarantine rules could be relaxed, but not yet.

Yours faithfully,
SURINDER SINGH BAKHSI,
Birmingham Communicable Disease Unit,
Bordesley House,
45 Bordesley Green East,
Birmingham 9.
January 22.

Frogs and paraquat

From Dr David A. Evans

Sir, You report (early editions, January 17) that paraquat has been identified as a possible cause of the worldwide decline in frog numbers. This refers to US research which showed that tadpoles were affected when forced in the laboratory to feed exclusively on aquatic weed killed by paraquat.

Paraquat is not used for weed control in water in the UK and USA and, when used for weed control on land, cannot leach into water as it looks on to clay particles in the soil. Any paraquat entering water from airborne spray drift would be at concentrations 100-1,000 times lower than that used in the US research.

Loss of habitat, such as farm ponds and marshlands, is probably the main factor affecting frog populations in this country. English Nature's initiative to focus attention on the role of the garden pond could provide valuable alternative habitats. Whatever the cause of the decline, it cannot be paraquat, since there is no significant exposure of the frog population to this herbicide.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID A. EVANS
(Research & Development Director),
Zeneca Agrochemicals,
Farnhurst, Haslemere, Surrey.
January 24.

Standing for gallantry

From Mr David Hide

Sir, Did not the amply-proportioned Hilaire Belloc proudly proclaim: "I give up my seat on the bus to two ladies?" (Letters, January 20, 24).

Yours more modestly,
DAVID HIDE,
24 Towers Avenue,
Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne.

From Mr A. J. C. Saunders

Sir, The lady to whom I recently surrendered my seat on a bus said, a few stops later: "I'm sorry, I thought you wanted to get off." I assured her that at my age (83) I did not, but I thanked her for the compliment.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. C. SAUNDERS,
32 Manor Wood Road,
Purley, Surrey.

Lessons for the young

From the Head Master of Westminster School

Sir, Schools are scolded for failing to communicate those commandments of moral value (Letters, January 20, 23) which Dr Nick Tate wishes to impose on our pupils. But what are schools to make of the tip-slamming greed which surrounds such events as Granada's takeover of Forté?

We are told that advisers in the City are estimated to gain £150 million for helping to conduct such business (reports, January 24).

And how are we expected to respond to the tantalising lure of National Lottery jackpots? What sort of values are these which the adult world proposes?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SUMMERSCALE,
Head Master,
Westminster School,
17 Dean's Yard, SW1.
January 24.

Trial by jury

From Mr F. L. Ward

Sir, As one who has been involved over a number of years with forensic work as a professional expert witness, and who has also served on a jury, I would like to suggest that the answer to the doubts about the jury system in complex trials is not to discard the jury (Letters, January 23).

In my view, the best procedure would be to provide a small panel of appropriate specialists to advise the jury; the panel having no responsibility for the final decision.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK WARD,
13 Johnsons Drive,
Hampton,
Middlesex.
January 21.

Jazz legacy

From Mr Nick Solomon

Sir, It was sad to read (obituary, January 22) of the death of Gerry Mulligan — one of a handful of instantly identifiable white jazz players in the music's history.

Your obituarist made one comment with which I cannot agree, that "most great jazz artists have matured only in their fifties". I seem to remember Thelonious Monk, asked about the precocious talent of the then young Keith Jarrett, replying: "If you ain't no good when you're 19, you ain't never gonna be no good."

But then again, so few jazz masters have barely made it into their thirties and forties (Ayer, Brown, Coltrane, Dolphy... and on through the alphabet) that we'll never know.

Despite the legacy of their recordings, the music really does die with these people. I wonder whether any jazz musician now under 40 will merit so much obituary space in 20 or 30 years' time.

Yours faithfully,
NICK SOLOMON,
Harpenden, Bedford,
Tenbury Wells,
Hereford and Worcester.
January 23.

Review of kidney patient services

From Professor N. P. Mallik

Sir, Your report of January 22, headed "Dialysis shortfall kills hundreds", states that the national review of renal services which I chaired — and which the Department of Health set up when it recognised a shortfall — was sent to ministers 18 months ago and has been blocked by the Treasury since then (see also Letter, January 24). Perhaps I could clarify the course of events.

The review commenced in the summer of 1993. Each of the 14 then regions of the National Health Service in England was visited and evidence was taken directly from clinicians and purchasing commissions as to the present and future pattern of renal services. Information was obtained on providing a cost-effective service from all renal units concerning the facilities, staff, patients and funding.

The three-part review, presented in December 1994, was internal to the Department of Health. Many departmental officers contributed to its findings. There is a textual commentary, the detail of the analysis of the data collected, and a purchaser guidance text to assist those who have to organise and purchase renal services.

While at no time were assurances sought by me that the review itself would be published, departmental officers have been considering whether

this guidance can stand alone or whether it would be better to publish the report as a whole. This is an internal matter for the Department of Health.

Departmental officers have worked hard to assimilate all the conclusions of the review and arrange for these to be taken into account in providing funds for NHS services. There have been discussions as to its cost implications — understandable when projections extend for a decade or more.

Nevertheless, the broad pattern of costs is available, and I understand that the department will shortly be able to issue the purchasing guidance, so that health authorities and trusts can reflect it in their plans for 1996-97 and beyond.

This will be of reassurance to patients, to their families and to those who have to care for them. It will provide a clear message that the department has been aware of a problem in managing renal disease in the United Kingdom, and has been prepared to address the issue and to take steps to put matters right.

Yours sincerely,
NETAR MALLICK
(Consultant physician),
Manchester Royal Infirmary,
Department of Renal Medicine,
Oxford Road, Manchester M13.
January 23.

Risk to game shooting

From Mr Allan W. Berry

Sir, Mr Leolin Price, QC (Letter, January 18), suggests that officials from the Brussels Commission should be dismissed for banning the drug Emtryl and that those Ministry of Agriculture officers who failed to block the proposed legislation should meet a similar fate.

His letter concludes that nothing should have stopped our Government from exercising power to protect our interest.

The decision to ban the use of dinitroazole (Emtryl), a treatment for protozoan parasite infestation of game birds, was taken after considering scientific advice that the mutagenic and carcinogenic properties of the drug were such that a safe minimum residue level could not be set. The UK claimed otherwise.

The suggestion in your report (January 13) that the ban could wipe out about 10 million birds indicates that most of our game bird industry, like many other facets of our society, is drug-dependent.

Heavy losses from parasite infestation usually result from overstocking. This may be the real root of the problem.

Turning a blind eye, as the Government seems to be proposing to do, to criminal drug misuse may result in contaminated exports being rejected as unfit for human consumption.

Such Euro-dodging could reasonably be regarded as a manifestation of greed and irresponsibility, rather than the protection of the UK interest.

Yours sincerely,
ALLAN W. BERRY,
Nurses House,
Cannich, Beaulieu, Inverness-shire.
January 21.

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset and East Devon (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, The Emtryl saga is a good illustration of how the European Commission can pass legislation and override the Council of Ministers (who represent the member states) through the "omnology procedure" — Euro-speak for action by committees of national "experts", including some from the UK.

The relevant committee in the case of Emtryl was not convinced that the scientific evidence justified a ban. Nor was the Council of Ministers. Unfortunately, the latter failed to reject the Commission proposal for a ban by the requisite "qualified majority". So, the Commission was able to ban Emtryl anyway.

The way in which the Commission is able to pass legislation using powers delegated to it by the Council of Ministers should worry all who are concerned about the "democratic deficit" in Brussels. The European Parliament has no control over EC delegated legislation. Nor does the House of Commons. Yet in Brussels, as in Whitehall, it is the "devil in the detail" of secondary legislation which causes all the problems.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN CASSIDY
(Conservative spokesman on economic and monetary affairs),
Bureau 827, Van Maelant,
European Parliament,
97-113 Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

WING COMMANDER RODERICK LEAROYD, VC

Wing Commander Roderick Learoyd, VC, one of the last three surviving RAF holders of the Victoria Cross, died on January 24 aged 52. He was born on February 5, 1913.

"BABE" LEAROYD, as the RAF knew him, won his VC for conspicuous gallantry during a bombing raid on the Dortmund-Ems Canal in 1940. The skill and courage he had displayed while flying his Hampden aircraft through heavy ground-fire at low altitude, had already come to the attention of 49 Squadron long before his most famous mission on the night of August 12, 1940, in the year of the Battle of Britain and of Dunkirk.

His citation in the *London Gazette* described how Acting Lieutenant Learoyd, then aged 27, had been detailed to attack a special objective on the canal, which he had targeted once already on a previous sortie. He was, therefore, only too well aware of the risks entailed.

In order to achieve maximum success, it was necessary to make his approach from a direction well known to the enemy, through a "lane" of carefully sited anti-aircraft batteries. The enemy was able to respond with devastating fire power from point-blank range. The reception given to the preceding aircraft "might well have deterred the stoutest heart," read the citation. All machines had been hit by the enemy and two had been lost. His own bomber was repeatedly hit and large chunks torn away from the fuselage as Flight Lieutenant Learoyd laid his attack at 150ft above the guns, half blinded by the glare of the German searchlights directed on to him from close range.

It was his resolution in pressing home his successful attack against such odds that earned for Learoyd the country's highest award for gallantry. Although himself wounded in the raid, he subsequently brought his wrecked aircraft home. As the landing flaps were not working and the undercarriage indicators were also out of action, he had to wait until dawn in the skies above his home airfield before being



able to land. Even so, he eventually accomplished this without injury to his crew or inflicting further damage on the bomber.

"The high degree of courage, skill and determination which this officer had invariably displayed on many occasions in the face of the enemy, sets an example which is unsurpassed," the citation ended. Yet, although the RAF later used him to go round Britain on a morale-boosting tour during the dark-

est days of the war, Learoyd was a shy, unassuming man who rarely talked much about his exploits over Germany.

Born at Folkestone, Kent, Roderick Alastair Brook Learoyd was the son of a major in the Highland Light Infantry who had served in the First World War. But the family had both a Yorkshire and Scottish background and at one time was involved in the Yorkshire textile industry.

On leaving Wellington College, Rod — as the family knew him — went to work for a while for an uncle who owned a fruit farm in Argentina. On returning home from there in 1936, however, he took a short service commission in the RAF. He, therefore, found himself immediately swept up by the outbreak of the Second World War.

On being demobilised in 1945, Learoyd served for a while in Malaya as a pilot for the Governor of the then British colony. He then worked at Heathrow for a while before joining the British Motor Corporation (BMC), with whom he remained for the rest of his working life. He was sent to work for the company at one time in the United States, returning to serve in various capacities in this country.

At one time he was the head of its fleet sales, particularly to government departments. At another he was involved in the company's public relations division and throughout his time with BMC he was repeatedly used as an unofficial ambassador. His natural charm and his wartime reputation made him highly valued by senior managers in Birmingham as a front man overseas.

In private life, as well as professionally, Learoyd had a lifelong passion for cars, particularly for Aston Martins. He regularly attended the Le Mans 24-hour race and was also a frequent visitor to Silverstone. He was a keen golfer in his younger days.

Learoyd, whose portrait hangs in the Imperial War Museum, was an active member of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, regularly attending its dinners and receptions in London. He went to last year's VE-Day celebrations in London when he was driven around the arena in a Rolls-Royce. But he suffered increasingly from diabetes, which affected his sight in his later years and forced him to give up driving himself.

Dr Robert Weir, CB, Chief Medical Officer, Northern Ireland, 1978-86, died on January 7 aged 67. He was born on October 29, 1928.

ROBERT WEIR was the head of the Government's medical service in Northern Ireland during the IRA hunger strikes in 1981 when ten men starved themselves to death in the Maze Prison. That the prison medical service should have maintained its standard of professional integrity and continued to treat prisoners and their families as patients and the relatives of patients was in no small way due to the courage and independence of mind of the Chief Medical Officer.

Bob Weir was born into a farming family in Co Londonderry and he never lost his countryman's common sense. Educated at Kianey Endowed School, Magherafelt, he entered Trinity College Dublin in 1945 taking degrees in arts and medicine, and graduated with honours in 1951 and, after postgraduate studies in cardiology with Professor Frank Pantridge in Belfast, he became MD with a gold medal in 1955.

A brilliant career beckoned as a cardiologist. But he elected instead for general practice in Newry, where his diagnostic skill and compassion made him a much loved figure in the rural community.

In 1963 he joined the Medical Referee Service and quickly moved to the policy and planning staff of the then Ministry of Health and Social Services. In 1972 he became Deputy Chief Medical Officer, and in 1978 was appointed



Chief Medical Officer, a post he was to hold until his retirement at the end of 1986.

His main achievement as Chief Medical Officer was to forge links between the professional and the administrative sides of the department and between the department and the medical profession. He was unquestionably the leader of the profession in Northern Ireland, respected by his colleagues for his own clinical experience and trusted by them to express their concerns at the highest level of government. Equally, he could be depended upon to give his views honestly. His advice carried a weight of authority and an intellectual coherence which could not be discounted.

Weir worked hard to make politicians aware of the concerns of the profession, and to convey to his professional colleagues the stark realities of public expenditure. His network of speciality advisory committees brought clinicians into the debate and ensured greater understanding of both

sides. He also pioneered a more rational approach to hospital development and the location of major services.

His role as Chief Medical Officer meant that he was the principal source of medical advice to all departments in Northern Ireland. This advice was critical in dealing with issues as disparate as the effect of listeria on the dairy industry, or salmonella on poultry farming and the fallout from Chernobyl on sheep farming in Co Antrim, asbestosis or the onset of AIDS.

But his greatest contribution to public service may well have been his professional responsibility for the prison medical service at a time when very serious questions were being raised about the treatment of prisoners. There were visits of inspection, during his period in office, from the International Red Cross, Amnesty and other Human Rights organisations.

Throughout all this he faced many moral, ethical and political dilemmas, and worked under considerable personal stress. He dealt sensitively and decisively with the unprecedented problems of the hunger strikers, and of the need for medical supervision in police holding centres where allegations of ill treatment were commonplace.

He was appointed CB in 1984. On his retirement in 1986, despite failing health, he undertook part-time medical assessment work, addressing the problems of occupational diseases and the emergence of new threats such as BSE.

He is survived by his wife June (nee Shuttleworth), whom he married in 1955, and by one son and two daughters.

PROFESSOR SYLVIA LAWLER

Professor Sylvia Lawler, geneticist, died on January 17 aged 74. She was born on January 15, 1922.

SYLVIA LAWLER was a pioneer in mapping the human genome, and the first woman professor of the Institute of Cancer Research, 1980-87, at the Royal Marsden Hospital. There she introduced the new techniques of tissue typing (which provided the basis on which transplant surgery techniques were based) and cytogenetics (the direct examination of chromosomes). Earlier, in the immediate postwar years, she made a substantial contribution at University College London.

An only child, Sylvia Dorothy Corbett, as she was known before marriage, qualified in medicine with distinction at University College London in 1945. She was clearly destined for a research career and joined Dr Rob Race at the Lister Institute, where he established the MRC Blood Group Unit. His group was instrumental in demonstrating that the ABO and rhesus blood groups, although of

vital clinical significance, were not unique, but rather that the red cell membranes carried many different genetically determined systems which could be detected by immunological methods. Lawler was responsible for the study of normal families and of families with inherited abnormalities, which provided a solid genetic foundation for this work.

In 1949 Lawler was invited by L. S. Penrose to join the Galton Laboratory at University College London, the first department of human genetics in the world. At this time most studies were based on quantitative characters such as height, or inherited diseases of variable manifestation. Penrose appreciated the advantage of inherited characters such as blood groups which could be exactly defined experimentally and which were uninfluenced by the environment.

He was himself involved in developing mathematical methods by which the order of genes on the chromosomes could be deduced: the combination of their skills, theoretical and serological, led to the first description of an auto-



mal linkage group in man. Lawler worked with James Renwick, who joined the group, and their findings on genetic linkages formed the basis of what was later to become a major project of the Human Genome Project. In 1960 she moved to the Institute of Cancer Research, where she worked hard to establish close scientific links between the Royal Marsden Hospital and the Institute.

Her interests in the genetics of malignancy were wide, including such diverse potentially pre-malignant conditions as myelodysplasia (an abnormality of the bone marrow) and molar pregnancy (an abnormality of the placenta which can lead to malignant tumour).

As head of a department which combined immunogenetics and cytogenetics, she developed the scientific basis for the Royal Marsden Hospital's pioneering work with bone marrow transplants, recognising early on the essential part these sciences have in this courageous treatment for leukaemia and other haematological conditions.

She was regarded with affection by her staff, in whom she took a personal interest. Her extensive knowledge and international reputation attracted numerous overseas visitors to her department and there are many today in Britain and around the world whose medical work owes much to her encouragement.

She was a founder member (and later Fellow) of the Royal College of Pathologists and was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Her major contributions to all six international workshops on chromosomes in leukaemia were evidence of her determination to discover the significance of acquired chromosomal abnormalities in this disease.

On her retirement she was appointed Emeritus Professor of Human Genetics at the Institute of Cancer Research and she continued to contribute to collaborative studies of the long-term survivors of leukaemia, and to efforts to improve the diagnosis and treatment of women with trophoblastic tumours.

Her marriage to Laurie Lawler was dissolved in 1976 and she married Professor Kenneth Bagshawe in 1977. She is survived by her husband and a son by her first marriage.

WILFRED FAIRCLOUGH

Wilfred Fairclough, painter-etcher and watercolourist, died on January 8 aged 88. He was born on June 13, 1907.



Wilfred Fairclough's Venice Light Music

WILFRED FAIRCLOUGH lived for his work and only ceased etching in the year of his death, an extraordinary demonstration of his stamina and application. He exhibited his etchings as a member of the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers (formerly Painter-Etchers & Engravers) for more than sixty years. Annually, and as late as last summer, whole editions of his prints sold out at the Royal Academy during the private views, an indication of the regard in which his followers held him.

Starting life with no advantages, Wilfred Fairclough was born in the Lancashire town of Blackburn, where he left school at 14 to work in a mill. After the mill failed, he trained as an audit clerk in a local accountancy firm, while attending evening classes at the Blackburn School of Arts and Crafts. He performed well in his day job but determined to pursue his interest in art by going in for the Board of Education's drawing examination, which he passed in 1930. That same year he was appointed to a part-time teaching job at the Blackburn School of Arts and Crafts.

From there through his own dogged determination, encouraged by his future wife Joan Vernon Cryer who had come to the same school as a student-teacher, he managed to gain entry to the Royal College of Arts' Engraving School. There he excelled, completing the graduate course in 1934 and being elected an Associate of the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers & Engravers at the early age of 26. Even more to the point, he was at the same time awarded the society's Rome scholarship.

Thus began a lifetime love affair with Italy, first with Rome and later with Venice. His watercolours and prints began to show an increasing

interest in figures, often displaying wit and keen observation in their execution.

A career in teaching followed his return to England. Fairclough obtained part-time work at Kingston School of Art and at the North London Polytechnic as a drawing instructor. He continued to produce prints of great sensitivity and power, gaining commissions and exhibiting regularly at the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers and at the Royal Academy.

In 1951 he won the Leverhulme Research award, which enabled him to visit Italy for the first time since his tenure of the Rome scholarship — Venice providing him with particular inspiration.

He returned from this sabbatical to become Principal of the Kingston College of Art. With the subsequent changes in art education, he spent his last two teaching years as assistant director of Kingston Polytechnic and head of the division of design from 1970 to 1972.

There then followed proba-

bly his most productive period as an artist. Having produced almost 80 etchings in the period up to 1972, he nearly doubled that number in the last two decades of his life, with the quality constantly improving. His subjects were both landscapes and figurative compositions, etched in copper and printed on paper in his own hand.

In watercolours, one of his most important projects was "Recording Britain", a scheme organised by the Pilgrim Trust. For this he carried out nearly 60 watercolours of Britain, particularly concentrating on the Peterborough area during the Second World War. These are now deposited in a variety of collections, including the Victoria and Albert Museum. Other works are in collections at the British Museum, the Ashmolean Museum and the Arts Council. He became an Associate of the Royal Watercolour Society in 1961 and a Fellow in 1968.

Wilfred Fairclough is survived by his wife Ann and a son and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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TICKETS FOR SALE

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ROBERT BURNS

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

Yesterday afternoon a statue of Robert Burns, subscribed for by the working classes of Scotland, and erected in one of the principal squares of Glasgow, was unveiled by Lord Houghton. The event awakened great enthusiasm throughout the country, and advantage was taken of the occasion for a grand demonstration in honour of the memory of Scotland's greatest bard. There was a great trades' procession, which marched through the streets accompanied by instrumental bands playing appropriate music. The city was crowded with visitors, the greatest contingent being from Ayrshire. Burns' native county, and in Glasgow and the neighbouring towns a general holiday was observed.

Lord Houghton said he was commissioned by the Lord Provost and the committee of the subscribers to that national memorial to unveil the statue of Robert Burns. They would bear in the report of that committee under what interesting and honourable circumstances it was there raised and presented. The few words he had to say would relate to the meaning and importance of that ceremony. Before the use of books, the erection of images of good and great men in stone or metal was

ON THIS DAY

January 26, 1877

It is a great tribute to a man when a city observes a holiday in his memory. There will be festive gatherings around this statue on July 21, the day of Robert Burns' death in 1796

the only means by which their personality, and in a great degree the memory of their deeds and characters, could be preserved. In this custom and art the ancient Greeks and the Romans, whose dominion stretched into Scotland itself, were most noted and successful; and thus it was that we were more familiar with the names and characters of illustrious men who lived in those far times than we were with those of many who in more recent periods had equally guided the destinies of the world and the thoughts of men. Nor after the birth of modern literature was this method of linking together the minds and generations of men without a signal effect. Even now, when literature had become popular, where a wide and generous edu-

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NEWS

Primary school results condemned

School test results showing that more than half of all 11-year-olds are not up to standard in English and mathematics provoked a storm over primary school teaching yesterday.

Tony Blair branded the results appalling. John Major described them as disappointing and education experts demanded a return to more traditional teaching methods. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, conceded that the standards of attainment were not good enough. Pages 1, 6, 7

Publisher drops Ian Smith memoirs

The long-awaited memoirs of Ian Smith, Rhodesia's last Prime Minister, have been dropped by HarperCollins because he insisted on describing his successor, Robert Mugabe and his guerrilla army, as terrorists. Mr Smith is to offer *The Great Betrayal* to other London publishing houses. Page 1

Winter returns

Heavy snow and freezing temperatures disrupted air, rail and road traffic across Britain. The London weather centre said the wintry conditions would continue into next week. Page 1

Today given out

Crickets to bounce: Radio 4's *Today* from the early morning airwaves next month. Live coverage of the World Cup matches in India will replace the programme on Long Wave. Page 1

Major mends fences

John Major acted to heal a serious rift in Anglo-Irish relations triggered by his backing for an elected body in Northern Ireland to take forward the quest for peace. Pages 2, 17

Unlawful killing

A Nigerian asylum seeker who died after a struggle with police as he was arrested was unlawfully killed, an inquest jury unanimously decided. Page 3

Policeman jailed

A former police sergeant with an exemplary 24-year career was jailed for seven years for seeking a £30,000 bribe to help to "noble" an Old Bailey jury. Page 3

Brock shock

Farmers want to resume culling badgers because the population has risen. MPs are to debate new legislation extending wild animals' protection. Page 4

Jew ostracised over divorce

Moses David, of northwest London, an unemployed former computer analyst, has become the first man in Britain to be officially ostracised by the Jewish community over his refusal to divorce his wife. The sanction, delivered by the Federation of Synagogues Beth Din, a Jewish court, prohibits Orthodox Jews from eating, drinking or sitting within six feet of him. Page 1

Garden of Eden

The Eden Project, a £105 million scheme for a kilometre-long artificial world containing rain forest, subtropical gardens and a desert, is being planned for a Cornish valley. Page 5

Hillary's high noon

The media will be out in force for an unprecedented sight — America's proud First Lady arriving under subpoena at a Washington federal courthouse to testify about Whitewater. Page 9

Bosnia cold shoulder

The two Serbs who were so prominent in prolonging the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina are being shunned by all Nato commanders implementing the Dayton peace accord. Page 10

Kremlin appointment

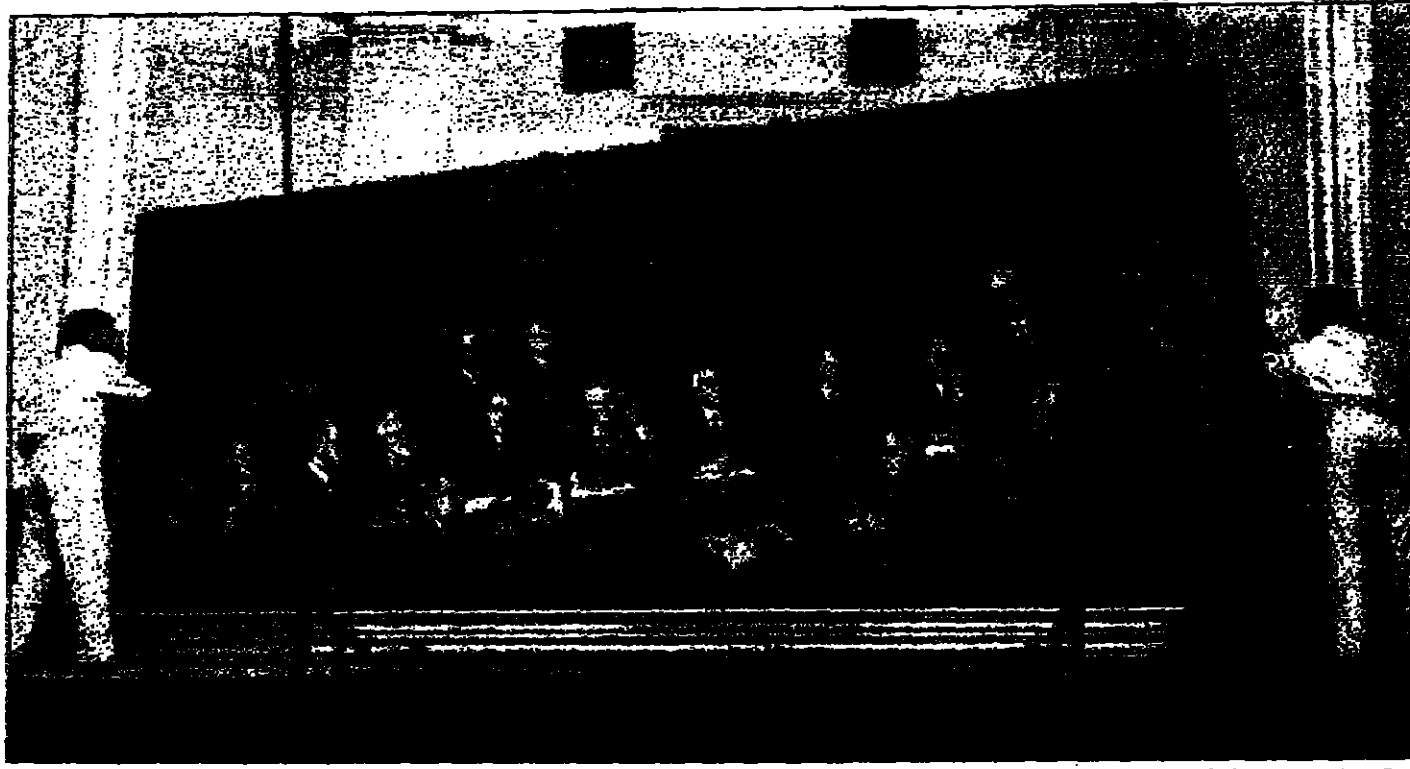
A controversial industrialist was appointed to head Russia's economic policy, renewing fears about the Kremlin's commitment to economic reform. Page 11

Miracle man

Pilot Baba, a Hindu holy man, crawled unsteadily out of the ground four days after being "buried alive" and took his first breath for 96 hours. Page 12

Conservative dress

President Jiang Zemin of China is moving his country away from reform — and has changed his Western lounge suit for a traditional Mao suit. Page 13



A painting of the Cabinet of Hendrick Verwoerd, the architect of apartheid, who is seen standing, second right, being removed from the South African Parliament building in Cape Town yesterday. It will be replaced by a UN anti-apartheid exhibition

BUSINESS

Electricity: The industry is considering spending several million pounds a year on an extensive advertising campaign to spruce up its image. Page 21

Belling scandal: The disgraced solicitor at the centre of the Belling pension fund affair was jailed for nine years. Page 21

Investor: Kevin Leech, who put £50,000 into ML Laboratories in 1987, cashed in £55 million of shares. His remaining 54 per cent personal stake in the company is worth £353 million. Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 24.0 points to 3734.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index was unchanged at \$3.1 after a rise from \$1.530 to \$1.548 but a fall from DM2.297 to DM2.269. Page 24

SPORT

Tennis: Monica Seles will meet Anke Huber in the women's singles final at the Australian Open. Seles beat Chanda Rubin in the semi-final after being 5-2 down in the final set. Page 40

Football: Faustino Asprilla, the Colombia striker, was set to sign for Newcastle United from Parma in a £7 million deal. Page 40

Boxing: The application by Joe Bugner, the former British heavyweight champion, to challenge for the Commonwealth championship has been rejected. He has had only one bout in eight years. Page 40

Hockey: Great Britain took a big step towards the Olympics when Calum Giles scored against Holland two minutes before the end to earn a 2-2 draw. Page 36

ARTS

Paws for a record: Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats* passes another milestone of Monday when it becomes the longest-running musical in history. Page 29

Fours of destiny: The Emerson String Quartet has opened its cycle of all the Beethoven quartets in stunning style at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Page 29

A star is born? Reviewing Scottish Opera's *La Traviata*, Rodney Milnes hails the emergence of Claire Rutter as a "hugely gifted young soprano". Page 29

Pop on Friday: David Sinclair on the sudden rise to international fame of the Kentucky-born singer Joan Osborne. Caitlin Moran on the weird "post-rock" music of Tortoise, from Chicago. Pages 30, 31

TOMORROW

BARGAIN BREAKS
Pick up our passport to Europe for details of special offer breaks at 175 hotels

FOOD AND DRINK
Frances Bissell's winter soups and salads; Jane MacQuitty on burgundy for novices

A husband's pride: "When the history of maternal or political courage is written there will be a chapter headed Harriet Harman. No words can express my admiration for her courage." Jack Dromey talks about his wife to Valerie Grove. Page 15

Beyond slogans: Denis MacShane on the real education issues behind the Harman affair — and why English children lag behind their continental peers. Page 33

Divine haute couture: In an outstanding week of Paris collections, few moments were as unforgettable as the Chanel show. Skirts either skimmed the knee or fell to the floor. Jackets held the body's line. Everything fitted like a glove. Iain R. Webb reports. Page 14

The state of the State of the Union is not good. Our problem is not the state of the country, it is the ghostly rite itself. We can't decide whether it's the political equivalent of Oscar night or the godchild of those old Soviet party conferences in which unanimity ("all rise... stormy applause") was so utterly mechanical and grim. The event is entirely staged, contrived with a view to its media coverage and the imagery it projects. — *The Washington Post*

Preview: A Tony Hancock classic is revived with a new voice. Paul Merton in Galton and Simpson's... *Twelve Angry Men* (8.30pm). Review: Lynne Truss finds ITV's new police series strong on formula but short on personality. Page 39

Anglo-Irish Angst

Elections will eventually determine Northern Ireland's future. The sooner the people of the Province have a chance to speak, the better. Page 17

German gloom

Germany is living off past success, and no amount of market rigging will avoid the need for painful economic readjustments. Page 17

Trumps for all

Our new bridge competition will add to the gaiety of nations, the revenues of the National Trust, and the profits of those who dare to bid up to the limits of their hands, and even beyond. Page 17

PETER STOTHARD

Today is the tenth anniversary of our first full day at Wapping. Now, the office of *The Times* seems a perfectly plausible place for a newspaper to be, but a decade ago it did not. Page 16

BERNARD LEVIN

Which? — the splendid, irascible, glorious monthly magazine which tells us which saucers to buy, and which motorcar not to buy (to the fury of the lesser saucer-makers and the lesser motor car makers) — is on the march against the solitarians. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

The slight recovery in the Tories' rating should be greeted with only half a cheer in Conservative Central Office. There has been no sign of any reduction in the high level of public dissatisfaction with the Government. Page 8

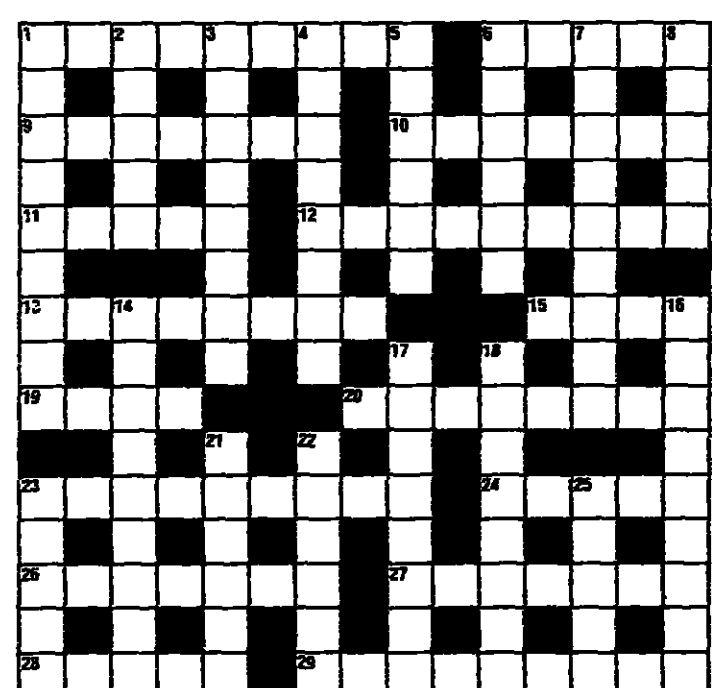
RAB LEAROLD, VC, wing commander

Professor Sylvia Lawler, geneticist; Dr Robert Weir, Chief Medical Officer, Northern Ireland, 1978-86; Wilfred Fairclough, watercolourist. Page 19

Selective schools: rabies; dialysis; game shooting.

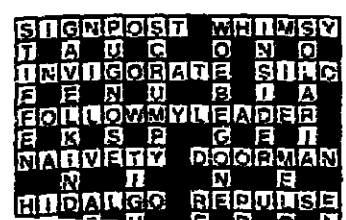
Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,074



- ACROSS**
- Last month Irish town almost finished in sporting event (9)
 - Late time to say one's piece (5)
 - Some bear the name of Clay (7)
 - Part of book — a religious work showing historical scenes (7)
 - I'll come in extremely wet (5)
 - Royal emblem otherwise represented (5,4)
 - In general, succeeded in top gear (8)
 - A ruler provided a site for mausoleum out East (4)
 - Career that leads to extremely advantageous retirement (4)
 - Not insane, not a liar, not normal (4)
 - Warship, having left from River Plate, at sea (9)
 - Understood address accommodates one (5)
 - Venus de Milo is in one piece, according to 'arry (7)
- DOWN**
- Ideal partner met aboard, possibly (9)
 - Chap in charge beginning to reprimand soldier, part of palace guard? (5)
 - Artist accepting a husband from Pacific island (2)
 - No fellow for mixing? (4,4)
 - Protection for someone eating game with people (6)
 - Place moved up to take minor piece (6)
 - Cricketer team's attractive member (6)
 - Tax — it's featured in article (5)
 - Get ride of date — behave tyrannically, heartlessly (9)
 - Article Lancelot smashed without warning (5,2,4)
 - Manage to get away with kidnap (5,3)
 - Richard Murphy, it's said, is a despot (5)
 - Local worker has to stop carrying weapon (6)
 - Blind summit — stop sign should be put up (6)

Solution to Puzzle No 20,073



TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest weather by region, visit our website at www.times.co.uk/weather or call 0800 123 4567. For more details, see page 12.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.
South East	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.
South West	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.
West Midlands	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.
East Midlands	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.
East of England	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.
North East	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.
North West	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.
Yorkshire	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.
West Yorkshire	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.
East Yorkshire	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.
North Yorkshire	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.
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South Yorkshire	Cloudy with rain, then sun. High 12, low 8.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest and lowest temperatures in degrees Celsius. For more details, see page 12.

AA ROADWATCH

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FORECAST

General: winds will bring bitterly cold weather to most of Britain. Over most of England and Wales, temperatures will remain below freezing throughout with a penetrating northerly wind.

Western areas will be mostly dry with some sunshine, but it will be quite cloudy in the east with snow at times. There may be blizzards over the higher ground of northeast England. Over Scotland and Northern Ireland, temperatures will mostly rise a degree or two above freezing, and there will be bright spells in the west. The very cold northerly wind will bring snow to many places, especially to eastern Scotland.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, Central N: mostly cloudy. Snow at times, most of night. Wind northerly fresh. Max 10C (50F).

Central S England, W Midlands,

SW England: a little sunshine and a few snow flurries. Wind northerly fresh. Max 10C (50F).

Channel Isles, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: bright at times, some sleet or snow showers. Wind northerly fresh. Max 20C (68F).

E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: fairly cloudy with frequent snow showers. Blizzards over higher ground. Wind northerly fresh of strong Max 10C (50F).

S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland: mostly dry, some sunshine. Wind fresh northerly. Max 10C (50F).

Outlook for weekend: snow in many places but becoming slightly less cold.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. Bright, cold, dry, with a few snow flurries. Wind northerly fresh. Max 10C (50F).

London: 10C (50F). High 12, low 8.

South East: 10C (50F). High 12, low 8.

South West: 10C (50F). High 12, low 8.

West Midlands: 10C (50F). High 12, low 8.

East Midlands: 10C (50F). High 12, low 8.

East of England: 10C (50F). High 12, low 8.

North East: 10C (50F). High 12, low 8.

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